

# COVID-19 Vaccine Fact Sheet

**Protect yourself and those around you by receiving a COVID-19 vaccine this fall.**

Receiving the annual COVID-19 vaccine will provide better protection and prevent severe outcomes, especially for those who are most vulnerable to severe diseases.

## What is COVID-19?

COVID-19 is a respiratory illness that can cause mild to severe illness, with similar symptoms to influenza (the flu) and Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV).

## Get vaccinated to protect yourself and others from COVID-19

**You should be vaccinated against COVID-19 each fall.** The COVID-19 vaccine is available for individuals six months of age and older who live, work or go to school in Ontario. In addition, certain high-risk individuals should also receive a dose in the spring.

It's safe and effective, even during pregnancy – and it cannot cause the infection.

The COVID-19 vaccine is available in participating pharmacies, health care provider's offices, medical walk-in clinics and at York Region Public Health vaccine clinics (for specific groups, by appointment only).

## You should get a COVID-19 vaccine this fall if:

- You are six months of age and older
- It has been at least three months or longer since your last dose or last COVID-19 infection

You can safely get the COVID-19 vaccine at the same time as other vaccines—or before or after them. Talk to your healthcare provider to see what's right for you.

### PUBLIC HEALTH

1-877-464-9675

TTY: Dial 711

[york.ca/COVID19Vaccines](https://york.ca/COVID19Vaccines)



## **The COVID-19 vaccine is especially important if you are:**

- 65 years of age or older
- Six months to four years of age
- A resident, staff or caregiver at a long-term care home
- A resident or staff of other congregate living settings, including retirement homes
- At higher risk of severe COVID-19 symptoms due to underlying medical conditions
- Pregnant
- First Nation, Inuit or Metis
- A healthcare worker

## **What are the possible side effects of the COVID-19 vaccine?**

Most people will not have any side effects. Some people may experience soreness, redness or swelling at the injection site, fever or muscle aches. These symptoms are usually mild and will go away in a few days. The most common side effects from the COVID-19 vaccine are: skin redness, swelling, and soreness at the injection site, mild fever, chills, fatigue, joint pain and muscle aches. Serious side effects are very rare.

If an allergic reaction is going to occur, it may happen within several minutes to several hours of receiving the COVID-19 vaccine. You should stay at the clinic for 15 minutes after getting the vaccine so the nurse can watch for any immediate signs of a reaction. If you react to the COVID-19 vaccine after leaving the vaccination clinic, please seek medical attention.

For more information, visit [york.ca/VirusSeason](https://york.ca/VirusSeason) or call Access York at 1-877-464-9675.