

Information on pediatric COVID-19 vaccine in pharmacies

In the coming weeks, contingent on Health Canada approval, pediatric Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine will become available for use in Canada. It is anticipated that the first shipments will arrive in Alberta in the coming weeks. Alberta Health Services (AHS) public health clinics will be the primary providers of COVID-19 vaccine to children ages five to 11 years. In some areas where AHS clinics are not easily accessible, a limited number of community pharmacies may be asked to participate in this administration effort as well.

Canada is one of the first jurisdictions to approve use of the pediatric formulation of the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine. As such, there is a critical need for the most accurate monitoring and administration data to be available at all times to further inform Health Canada, the manufacturer and other jurisdictions about this vaccine. It is expected that there will be limited quantities of the vaccine available.

Given these factors, the following criteria will be applied to identify community pharmacy providers who are best positioned to administer pediatric COVID-19 vaccine:

1. Pharmacies assessed by AHS which are **not** in close geographic proximity to an AHS public health clinic providing immunization services for children ages five to 11 will be considered for participation.
2. **Only** pharmacies actively using and maintaining records in the Alberta Vaccine Inventory (AVI) system **and** the Alberta Vaccine Booking System (AVBS) will be considered for participation as accurate distribution and uptake data for pediatric COVID-19 vaccine is critical.
3. Pharmacies that have claims from the influenza immunization program from 2020 and/or 2021 demonstrating recent and active immunization of children ages five to 11 will be prioritized.

Pharmacies selected to participate will be directly contacted to verify interest in immunizing children ages five to 11, and will have the opportunity to opt-out of participating.

For assistance with benefit or claim inquiries, please contact an Alberta Blue Cross Pharmacy Services Provider Relations contact centre representative at

780-498-8370 (Edmonton and area)

403-294-4041 (Calgary and area)

1-800-361-9632 (toll free)

FAX 780-498-8406 (Edmonton and area)

FAX 1-877-305-9911 (toll free)

Alberta Blue Cross offers online access to current Pharmacy Benefacts and supplemental claiming information to assist with the submission of your direct bill drug claims.

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