

Myocarditis/Pericarditis and COVID-19 Vaccines

You may have heard about rare reports of myocarditis/pericarditis after COVID-19 vaccination and have some questions. It is important to remember that the strong benefits of the COVID-19 vaccines far outweigh the low risk of myocarditis/pericarditis after COVID-19 vaccination.

Getting COVID-19 is far less likely among fully vaccinated people, and almost all people hospitalized from COVID-19 are unvaccinated.



What You Should Know

Getting vaccinated is **the best choice** you can make to protect yourself, your loved ones and your community from COVID-19.



**Find locations
to get
vaccinated:**



niagararegion.ca/covid-vaccine

What is myocarditis/pericarditis?

Myocarditis is inflammation of the heart muscle, and pericarditis is inflammation of the outer lining of the heart. These conditions are normally caused by a **viral infection**.

What are the symptoms of myocarditis/pericarditis?

Symptoms of these conditions may include chest pain; shortness of breath; or the feeling of a fast, pounding, or fluttering heartbeat.

What do we know about myocarditis/pericarditis and the COVID-19 vaccines for those 12 years of age and older?

Both myocarditis and pericarditis are more common after COVID-19 illness (a viral infection) than after vaccination. Myocarditis is six times more likely after COVID-19 infection than COVID-19 vaccination in young males, who are the highest risk group.¹

Reports of myocarditis/pericarditis after vaccination with an mRNA COVID-19 vaccine have been rare. When it does happen, it seems to be:

- Usually within a week after vaccination
- More often after the second dose
- More often in males
- More often in youth and young adults

The majority of cases have been mild, easily treated, and individuals recover quickly.

What about five to 11 year olds?

In the clinical trials of the vaccine, no cases of myocarditis or pericarditis were linked to the vaccine. While the clinical trials may not detect rare or very rare adverse events, over three million children have already been vaccinated in the United States. No safety signals have been identified.

We also have new evidence that shows an eight week interval between first and second dose may be linked with a lower risk of myocarditis and/or pericarditis in adolescents and young adults. Five to 11 year olds receive their second dose eight weeks after their first.

As always, vaccine safety is continuously monitored.



Questions about COVID-19 vaccines for children and youth?

Book a confidential phone appointment to speak with a paediatric registered nurse from The Hospital for Sick Children (SickKids). The service is available in multiple languages. Visit sickkids.ca/vaccineconsult or call toll free 1-888-304-6558.

COVID-19 Info-Line: 905-688-8248 press 7

Toll-free: 1-888-505-6074

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¹ Singer, M. E., Taub, I. B., & Kaelber, D. C. (2021). Risk of myocarditis from COVID-19 infection in people under age 20: a population-based analysis. medRxiv. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1101/2021.07.23.21260998>