

June 16, 2021

Dear parents and guardians,

As you may know, Albertans born in 2009 or before are eligible to book their first COVID-19 immunization dose.

Vaccines are a critical way to limit the spread of COVID-19. They are effective and safe. Immunization protects your health, as well as the health of your loved ones and the community. Vaccines make your immune system stronger. They build antibodies to help prevent diseases. Immunization is safe. It is much safer to get immunized than to get COVID-19 disease.

AHS encourages all Albertans to book their COVID-19 immunization appointment as soon as they are eligible. If you are unable to book an appointment in this clinic, feel free to book at a more convenient time. Appointments can be easily booked using the AHS [online booking tool](#), by calling Health Link at 811, or at a [participating pharmacy](#).

Youth who are born in 2004 – 2009 are able to receive the [Pfizer](#) vaccine and those born in 2003 are able to receive Pfizer or [Moderna](#). Both of these are mRNA vaccines, are safe and effective, and require two doses per person for optimal immunity to COVID-19.

Prior to receiving their immunization, minors (under 18 years of age) in most circumstances will require parental consent. If the parent/guardian is in attendance, verbal consent is appropriate. If a parent/guardian cannot be in attendance, a consent form can be signed and provided to the immunizer prior to administering the vaccine. This form can be found here: [Consent for COVID-19 Immunization](#).

We understand some people may be anxious about whether the COVID-19 vaccine is right for them. AHS encourages Albertans to get their COVID-19 information from reputable sources to make informed decisions about getting immunized. This includes: [Alberta Health Services- COVID-19 Information for Albertans](#), [Alberta Health Services-COVID-19 Vaccine FAQ](#), [Alberta Health](#), [MyHealth.Alberta](#) and the [Government of Canada](#). You can also speak to your/your child's healthcare provider if you have any questions.

All Albertans, including those who have been immunized, must still continue to follow all public health measures. However, those that are immunized now have different [quarantine requirements](#) than those who are not immunized. All the more reason to get the vaccine as soon as possible.

Widespread immunization will help all Albertans return to a more normal way of life, sooner.

Thank you for your continued support and cooperation.

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