



Durham Region Health Department **FAX about...**

For Health Care Professionals



COVID-19 Vaccination for Special Populations: High-Risk Children 12 to 15 Years of Age

While studies are ongoing on the use of COVID-19 vaccines in children, the current vaccines in Canada are authorized for use in those 16 years of age and older for Pfizer and 18 years of age and older for Moderna and AstraZeneca.

In accordance with the [Ministry of Health COVID-19 Vaccination Recommendations for Special Populations](#) document a complete series with Pfizer- BioNTech may be offered to individuals 12 to 15 years of age who are at very **high risk of severe outcomes of COVID-19** (e.g., due to a pre-existing medical condition known to be associated with increased risk of hospitalization or mortality) AND/OR are at increased risk of exposure (e.g., due to living in a congregate care facility) if a risk assessment deems that the benefits outweigh the potential risks for the individual, and if informed consent is given by the individual (if capable) or the substitute decision maker if the person is incapable (often the parent or guardian). The information provided must include discussion with the treating health care provider (of their medical condition) about the insufficient evidence on the use of COVID-19 vaccines in this population.

If you have individuals in your practice who are 12 to 15 years of age and meet the above criteria, you can contact the Health Department at **905-668-7711 x 3022** for information on how they can be accommodated at an immunization clinic. A letter will be required from the treating health care provider to indicate the recommendation for the COVID-19 vaccine and that the above information has been reviewed with the client and family.

April 27, 2021

905-668-2020 or 1-800-841-2729 | durham.ca/health

If you require this information in an accessible format, contact 1-800-841-2729.

