

## COVID-19 vaccine

### SARS CoV-2

The **COVID-19** vaccine is part of the Routine Yukon Immunization Program.

#### What is SARS-CoV-2 (COVID)?

SARS-CoV-2 (Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus 2) is the virus that causes the illness known as COVID-19. It is a respiratory virus that spreads easily from person to person through:

- Breathing in respiratory droplets from coughing, sneezing, talking, singing, or close contact.
- Touching contaminated surfaces and then touching the eyes, nose, or mouth without washing hands.

SARS-CoV-2 can infect people of all ages, but older adults and individuals with chronic medical conditions are at higher risk of developing severe illness.

#### Symptoms of COVID-19 illness

- Fever and chills
- Fatigue
- Cough or shortness of breath
- Muscle or joint pain
- Sore throat
- Headache
- Loss of smell or taste
- Digestive upset or diarrhea

#### Why is the COVID-19 vaccine recommended?

- Reduces your risk of severe illness and complications.
- It is safe, with extensive monitoring in Canada and worldwide.
- It is the best protection against hospitalization, long-term complications and death from SARS-CoV-2 infection.
- It may also help protect people around you, including those at higher risk of severe illness, by reducing your risk of infection.

#### Possible complications from COVID-19

- Multisystem Inflammatory Syndrome (MIS-C)
- Post COVID-19 Condition (PCC)
- Hospitalization and death

#### What are possible reactions to Covid-19 vaccines?

Common reactions to the immunization may include redness, tenderness, and swelling at the injection site. Some people may also develop a mild fever, headache, fatigue, or digestive symptoms. These reactions are usually mild and last 1 to 2 days.

Side effects are generally easy to manage. You can apply a cold, damp compress to the injection site. If needed, use a pain reliever such as acetaminophen (Tylenol), as directed by your health care provider. Speak with your healthcare provider if symptoms are severe or last longer than 48 hours.

#### After you get the vaccine

- Stay at the clinic for 15 minutes after getting the vaccine.
- Severe allergic reactions are very rare. Clinic staff are trained to treat them right away. If you have symptoms of a severe reaction after leaving the clinic, call 911 or your local emergency number right away.