

TO PARENTS with children aged between 12 and 17 years old

Dear parents,

COVID-19 has changed many things, but the important role vaccination plays in keeping our community safe and healthy remains unchanged. No matter what the following school years bring us, we wish that vaccination will help to maintain health in Nunavik's communities.

Since May 6th, the Quebec Government, following the authorization of Health Canada, recommends the use of the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine in children 12 to 17 years of age¹. As in the rest of Canada, this vaccine is offered in Nunavik to children of 12 to 17 of age. **Two doses must be received in order to ensure the best protection against the SARS-CoV-2 virus and its variants, and to ensure a long term protection.** The two doses will be offered at a 4 weeks interval.

The COVID-19 vaccines provide protection against the disease, as a result of developing an immune response to the SARS-Cov-2 virus. Developing immunity through vaccination means there is a reduced risk of developing the illness and its consequences. This immunity helps you fight the virus if exposed. Getting vaccinated also protects people around you, because if you are protected from getting infected, you are less likely to infect someone else. This is particularly important to protect people at increased risk for severe illness from COVID-19, such as older or elderly adults, babies, people with other medical conditions and healthcare providers.

COVID-19 can cause severe disease or even death. Some people may develop long-lasting effects following COVID-19 infection, resulting in symptoms that last for weeks or months, even when the virus can no longer be detected in the body.

The COVID-19 vaccine has not been shown to cause any serious side effects. Therefore, the benefits of the COVID-19 vaccine clearly outweigh the risks. This is a safe practice, now recommended by the World Health Organization².

Here are some tools to help you make a decision:

Our Q&A fact sheet

The COVID-19 HEALTH LINE: 1-888-662-7482

<https://nrhss.ca/en/coronavirus>

<https://www.quebec.ca/en> check the Covid 19 and vaccination section

<https://www.canada.ca/> check the Covid-19 section

AUTHORIZATION FORM

You will find enclosed an authorization form for vaccination against Covid-19. **The authorization forms must be completed. It is very important to complete all sections of the form even if you are refusing vaccination for your child or if he have already been vaccinated with one or 2 doses. Please note that in Québec, children 14 and over can give their own consent to being vaccinated.**

***Thank you for your cooperation.
The CLSC Nursing Team***

¹ <https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/news/2021/05/health-canada-authorizes-use-of-the-pfizer-biontech-covid-19-vaccine-in-children-12-to-15-years-of-age.html>

<https://www.inspq.qc.ca/publications/3093-utilisation-des-vaccins-am-contre-la-covid19>

² [https://www.who.int/news-room/q-a-detail/coronavirus-disease-\(covid-19\)-vaccines](https://www.who.int/news-room/q-a-detail/coronavirus-disease-(covid-19)-vaccines)

