

# Consent for immunization

## Information for parents and youth

In Yukon, the [Care Consent Act](#) applies to people of all ages. That means anyone can consent to their own health care as long as they are capable of understanding and appreciating the consequences of that decision (s.6 (4) CCA). If a minor presents with or without parent/representative consent, it is the health care provider's professional responsibility to assess their ability to consent and inform them about their right to provide consent on their own behalf despite the consent or refusal to consent given by the parent(s).

### How does consent work?

Any person under the age of 19 who is capable of providing informed consent to their own health care has the authority to give, refuse, or revoke consent for their own immunizations. They can also determine who can access their immunization records.

Consent is based on capacity, not age, but adolescents do have varying levels of capability. A minor is considered capable of providing informed consent to their own health care if they demonstrate the ability to understand the benefits of vaccination, the risks of not getting a vaccine, and other standard information.

### Your role as a parent:

- Have a conversation with your child about the COVID-19 vaccine.
- Review the **mRNA COVID-19 Vaccine Information Sheet**.
- Answer additional questions your child may have and do your research together.
- If desired, attend your child's vaccine appointment to have further questions addressed at the time of vaccination and to provide parental consent.

### How will consent for COVID-19 vaccines be obtained for 12-17 year olds?

There are **7 steps a health care provider will take** to assess if a minor can provide informed consent to immunization:

1. **Determine authority** – is the client interested in immunization?
2. **Determine capability** by communicating with the client in a way they can understand and that considers any barriers.
3. **Provide standard information on the vaccine** – review who should and shouldn't get immunized, common and expected side effects of vaccine, possible severe events and risk of not getting immunized.
4. **Confirm understanding** of standard information by assessing non verbal cues, answering questions, or clarifying silence.
5. **Provide opportunity to ask questions.**
6. **Confirm consent** – “are you ready to get your vaccination?”
7. **Document** consent or refusal.

