

September 1, 2021

Dear parent(s)/guardian(s):

Re: School-based COVID-19 vaccination clinics

COVID-19 vaccinations will be provided at your child's school!

Public Health Sudbury & Districts is pleased to announce that school-based COVID-19 vaccination clinics are planned starting September 9, 2021. New direction from the Government of Ontario requires public health units to work with school boards to host COVID-19 vaccination clinics in or nearby schools. This is to improve access to vaccine and keep children protected to continue with in-school learning. Our goal is to provide all eligible youth with the opportunity to receive both doses of the COVID-19 vaccine early in the school year and support a safe return to school.

Included with this letter is the school vaccination schedule and a consent form for the COVID vaccination series for parents and legal guardians. In compliance with area board of education requests, a signed consent form is being requested for youth to receive a COVID-19 vaccine at a school-based clinic. This is aligned with our usual practice for school-based immunization clinics which include a signed consent combined with a capacity assessment at time of immunization, per the Last Mile Strategy – School-Based COVID-19 Vaccine Clinics memo.

Why is the COVID-19 vaccine important for children in school?

We know that youth can become infected and spread the virus to others, even if they have mild or no symptoms. This is why completing the vaccine series (two doses of an approved mRNA vaccine) is critical to protecting youth, their families, and our communities. During the pandemic youth have missed out on many activities that are key to their social and emotional development. Adhering to COVID-safe measures and completing the COVID-19 vaccination series are key strategies to keeping schools open and maintaining a sense of normalcy for our children.

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phsd.ca



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Will fully vaccinated children be able to stay in school if they are exposed to COVID-19?

Yes, in most circumstances, fully vaccinated children who have no symptoms will not need to isolate and miss school, even if they are exposed to someone with COVID-19. Exceptions apply if the fully vaccinated child has symptoms and/or in specific situations as directed by Public Health.

Will children who are not fully vaccinated need to isolate in the event of an exposure to COVID-19 or outbreak?

Yes, children who are not fully immunized will need to isolate for 10 days if there is an exposure or outbreak and upon recommendation by Public Health.

How do I talk with my child about COVID-19 vaccination?

Parent(s) and guardian(s) play a key role in helping youth make an informed decision about vaccination. Parents are encouraged to answer questions about the benefits and risks of getting vaccinated against COVID-19, and about the consequences if they do not get vaccinated. In preparation, take a look at the Kids Health First website: <https://kidshealthfirst.ca> for trusted information for parents, caregivers, and youth. Also, please review the Ontario Ministry of Health [Fact Sheet](#) which provides information to help prepare youth for their COVID-19 vaccination. It includes details on informed consent, how to prepare for getting the vaccine and what to expect afterwards.

What identification will be needed for my child to get their vaccination?

Although a health card is helpful, it is not required for vaccination. If a health card number is not available, then a combination of documents including a photo (e.g. student card) and full legal name and date of birth (e.g. report card) will be accepted.

Thank you for your attention and follow up to this important communication. Thank you for all you have done to support your student, their learning and development, and our community!

Sincerely,

Public Health Sudbury & Districts

Additional information

Below is a list of resources that youth and families may find useful:

[What youth need to know about their COVID-19 vaccine appointment](#) (Ministry of Health, PDF).

[Factsheet for parents and youth on the COVID-19 vaccine](#) (Public Health Sudbury & Districts, PDF)

[Frequently asked question about the COVID-19 vaccines](#) (Public Health Sudbury & Districts website)

[COVID-19 vaccine information sheet: for youth age 12-17](#) (Ontario Ministry of Health, PDF, 280KB)

[What youth need to know about their appointment](#) (Ontario Ministry of Health, PDF, 100KB)

[COVID-19 Vaccine Quick Facts Videos](#) (video series with Public Health Nurse Natalie who answers many questions on the COVID-19 vaccine)

[COVID-19 How vaccines are developed](#) (Health Canada) [ENG & FR]

[How do vaccines work?](#) (Science North, English only)

www.kidshealthfirst.ca (Website from the Children's COVID-19 Vaccine Advisory Table)

For more information on our youth and family clinics, visit: <https://www.phsd.ca/health-topics-programs/vaccines-immunizations/coronavirus-covid-19-vaccine/upcoming-vaccination-clinics-for-specific-priority-groups/>

Voici des ressources clés que les jeunes et les familles pourraient trouver utiles:

[Ce que les jeunes doivent savoir à propos de leur rendez-vous pour recevoir le vaccin contre la COVID-19](#) (ministère de la Santé, PDF).

[Faits sur la vaccination contre la COVID-19 pour les parents et les jeunes](#) (Santé publique Sudbury et districts, PDF)

[FAQ : Les vaccins contre la COVID-19](#) (site Web de Santé publique Sudbury et Districts)

[Document d'information sur le vaccin contre la COVID-19 : Pour les jeunes \(âgés de 12 à 17 ans\)](#) (ministère de la Santé, PDF, 280 Ko)

[Ce que les jeunes doivent savoir à propos de leur rendez-vous pour recevoir le vaccin contre la COVID-19](#) (ministère de la Santé, PDF, 100 Ko)

[Vidéos : Faits en bref sur la COVID-19](#) (série de vidéos avec l'infirmière-hygiéniste Natalie qui répond à de nombreuses questions sur le vaccin COVID-19)

[COVID-19 : Comment les vaccins sont créés](#) (Santé Canada)

[How do vaccines work? \(Comment les vaccins fonctionnent-ils?\)](#) (Science Nord, en anglais seulement)

<https://fr.kidshealthfirst.ca/> (site Web de la Table consultative des vaccins COVID-19 pour enfants)

Pour en savoir plus sur nos séances de vaccination pour les jeunes et les familles, consultez :

<https://www.phsd.ca/fr/sujets-et-des-programmes-de-sante/vaccins-immunisations/vaccin-contre-le-coronavirus-covid-19/seances-de-vaccination-a-venir-pour-certains-groupes-prioritaires/>



COVID-19 Vaccine (Pfizer BioNTech®)

Information on vaccines for school-aged children.

Instructions for parents

1. Read this information sheet.
2. Complete the consent form and return the form to your child's school.
3. Make sure your child eats on the day of the clinic.
4. Make sure your child wears a short sleeve shirt on the day of the clinic.

What is COVID-19?

COVID-19 is an infection caused by a new coronavirus (Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus 2 - SARS-CoV-2). COVID-19 was recognized for the first time in December 2019 and has since spread around the world to cause a global pandemic

How is COVID-19 spread?

COVID-19 is mainly passed from an infected person to others when the infected person coughs, sneezes, sings, talks or breathes. It is important to note that infected people can spread the infection even if they have no symptoms.

How safe are the vaccines for COVID-19?

Health Canada has approved some vaccines to help fight COVID-19. These vaccines have met strict standards and are both safe and effective. Vaccines approved by Health Canada go through an in-depth and independent review.

How effective are the vaccines?

Each of the approved vaccines are very effective against COVID-19. Even one dose offers excellent protection. A second dose is still required to complete the protection.

Can I get COVID-19 from the vaccines?

None of the vaccines can make you sick with COVID-19 as they do not contain the COVID-19 virus.

How do vaccines work?

The vaccine will train your body to recognize the virus that causes COVID-19. Your body will then be better able to fight the virus in the future if you are exposed to it.

How will the vaccine help me?

The vaccine will prevent you from getting sick from COVID-19, or if you do get infected, you will have milder symptoms.

Who should not get the COVID-19 vaccine?

- anyone born after 2009
- Students who had a severe allergic reaction to a previous dose of COVID-19 vaccine
- students who have a fever or any illness more serious than a minor cold on the day of the clinic
- students who received any vaccine in the last 14 days

What are the possible side effects of this vaccine?

The most common reported side effects are:

- redness, warmth, or slight swelling at the injection site
- slight fever
- decreased energy

Severe reactions are rare.

Call your health care provider if your child has any of the following reactions:

- trouble breathing
- swelling of the face or mouth
- fever over 40°C (104°F)
- hives or rash
- any other serious problem
- chest pain
- shortness of breath

A nurse will keep an eye on your child for 15 minutes after vaccination.

Visit phsd.ca/studentvaccines for information or to report vaccinations given by other health care providers.



Consent for COVID-19 Vaccine Youth (Age 12-17)

Last name: _____ First name: _____

Date of birth: (y/m/d) _____ Gender: Male Female Prefer not to answer Other: _____

Identification number (e.g., health card, passport, birth certificate, driver's license): _____

School you will be attending in the fall: _____

Primary phone #: _____ Secondary phone #: _____

Address (street, city, province, postal code): _____

Name of your Primary Care Clinician (Family Physician, Pediatrician or Nurse Practitioner): _____

If Indigenous, please indicate your Indigenous identity:

First Nations Métis (includes members of the Métis organization or Settlement)

Inuk/ Inuit Other Indigenous, specify: _____ Prefer not to answer, Unknown

Has your child previously received one or more doses of a COVID-19 vaccine? If yes, please complete the information below for all doses of vaccine received.

First dose date (mm/dd/yyyy): _____ First dose name: _____

Second dose date (mm/dd/yyyy): _____ Second dose name: _____

Consent to Receive the Vaccine series: I request this that this child receives the COVID-19 vaccine. I have read the COVID-19 Information Sheet for Youth Age 12-17. I have had the chance to ask questions and I understand the benefits and risks of the vaccine. Any questions that I asked have been answered to my satisfaction. This consent is valid for the period required to give the vaccine (up to 24 months), unless cancelled in writing. I understand that I may withdraw this consent at any time. Note: Please contact Public Health Sudbury & Districts at 705.522.9200, ext. 458 if you change your mind and no longer consent to receiving the vaccine.

Acknowledgement of Collection, Use and Disclosure of Personal Health Information

The personal health information on this form is being collected for the purpose of providing care to you and creating an immunization record for you, and because it is necessary for the administration of Ontario's COVID-19 vaccination program. This information will be used and disclosed for these purposes, as well as other purposes authorized and required by law. For example,

- it will be disclosed to the Chief Medical Officer of Health and Ontario public health units where the disclosure is necessary for a purpose of the Health Protection and Promotion Act.
- it may be disclosed, as part of your provincial electronic health record, to health care providers who are providing care to you.

The information will be stored in a health record system under the custody and control of the Ministry of Health. Where a clinic site is administered by a hospital, the hospital will collect, use and disclose your information as an agent of the Ministry of Health.

I acknowledge that I have read and understand the above statement.

Date: _____ Parent/guardian signature: _____

