

November 29, 2021

Dear parents / guardians / members of the school community:

Re: School-based COVID-19 vaccine clinics for children aged 5- to 11

As you will be aware, the Pfizer- BioNTech Comirnaty COVID-19 vaccine for children aged 5 to 11 was approved by Health Canada on November 19 and vaccination opportunities are now available locally.

Public Health Sudbury & Districts, in collaboration with local school boards, has planned school-based COVID -19 vaccination clinics in select schools throughout our area. These are in addition to other vaccination opportunities available throughout the community including mass immunization clinics, pop-up clinics, and appointments with participating primary care providers or pharmacies.

The COVID-19 vaccine is safe and effective and Canada's National Advisory Committee on Immunization recommends that the two-dose series may be offered to children 5-11. With the high rates of COVID-19 currently in our communities and impacting school-aged children, getting vaccinated will protect students, families, and the school community. This is an important step in protecting in-person learning, safeguarding participation in extra-curricular activities, and reducing disruptions at school, home and within families.

To improve access to the COVID-19 vaccine, we are organizing in-school clinics that will supplement the many [local vaccination opportunities](#) including numerous mass immunization clinics and pop-up clinics as well as participating pharmacy and primary care opportunities. Public Health has been working with education partners to host clinics, in particular, in schools where there are children with special needs and in schools further from planned community-based clinic sites. Our goal is to provide all eligible children with opportunities to receive both doses of the COVID-19 vaccine by early 2022.

Sudbury

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Elm Place

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Unit / Unité 130
Sudbury ON P3C 5N3
t: 705.522.9200
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Sudbury East / Sudbury-Est

1 rue King Street
Box / Boîte 58
St.-Charles ON P0M 2W0
t: 705.222.9201
f: 705.867.0474

Espanola

800 rue Centre Street
Unit / Unité 100 C
Espanola ON P5E 1J3
t: 705.222.9202
f: 705.869.5583

Île Manitoulin Island

6163 Highway / Route 542
Box / Boîte 87
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Chapleau

34 rue Birch Street
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phsd.ca

Parents / Guardians / Members of the school community

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Included with this letter is a **list of schools** where **vaccination clinics** will be held and a **consent form** for the COVID-19 vaccination series for parents and guardians. A signed consent form is required for children to receive a COVID-19 vaccine at a school-based clinic if unaccompanied by a parent or guardian. This is aligned with our usual practice for school-based immunization clinics. If a parent or guardian is attending the clinic with their child, they may provide consent at time of immunization.

In preparation for the school vaccination clinics, some commonly asked questions and important information are included in the 5-11 COVID-19 Vaccination Fact Sheet that follows.

I hope that this information is helpful to you as you consider this exciting vaccination opportunity for your child. Please do not hesitate to visit our website, call us etc. for more information.

Thank you for your ongoing support and commitment to keeping our schools and communities safe from COVID-19.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Penny Sutcliffe', with a stylized, cursive-like script.

Penny Sutcliffe, MD, MHSc, FRCPC
Medical Officer of Health and Chief Executive Officer

Encls: (4)

Schedule of In-School Clinics Throughout Sudbury & Districts

December 2nd, 2021: Jean Hanson Public School from 9:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

December 3rd, 2021: Queen Elizabeth II Public School from 3:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.

December 6th, 2021: St. Charles Catholic Elementary School from 4:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

December 6th, 2021: Charles C. McLean Public School from 3:30 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

December 7th, 2021: St. Francis Catholic School from 3:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.

December 7th, 2021: Assiginack Public School from 3:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.

December 8th, 2021: St. David Catholic Elementary School from 4:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

December 9th, 2021: Adamsdale Public School from 3:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.

December 9th, 2021: St. Anne Catholic Elementary School from 4:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

December 10th, 2021: Princess Anne Public School from 3:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.

December 13th, 2021: Pius XII Catholic Elementary School from 4:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

December 13th, 2021: Sacred Heart Catholic School from 4:00 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.

December 16th, 2021: Lansdowne Public School from 3:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.

December 16th, 2021: S. Geiger Public School from 4:00 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.

5-11 COVID-19 Vaccination Fact Sheet

What you need to know about attending a school clinic

Who can attend a school vaccination clinic?

- **Daytime In-school Clinics:** Clinics held during school hours will only be available for students, faculty, and staff of the school.
- **After Hours In-School Clinics:** Clinics held after school hours will be open to the public, including the student(s)' family and the general public.

Do I need to book an appointment for my child(ren) to attend a school or community vaccination clinic?

- **In-schools Clinics:** Most in-school clinics will not require prior bookings but will be hosted on a first-come-first-served basis. Some after school clinics will also act as community clinics in our district areas, where both pre-booked appointments and walk-ins will be welcome. For booking instructions please see below under Community Clinics.
- **Community Clinics:** Starting 8 a.m. Tuesday, November 23, 2021, non-school clinic vaccination appointments can be booked for children aged 5 to 11 years old through the provincial online booking system at covid-19.ontario.ca/book-vaccine and through the local call centre at 705.674.2299 (toll-free: 1.800.708.2505). The call centre is open Monday to Friday between 8 a.m. and 6 p.m. and is closed on statutory holidays. Limited walk-in spots will also be available, but please plan ahead for inclement weather.

What will the vaccination experience be like for my child in a school clinic?

All vaccination clinics have COVID-safety measures in place. To make your child's vaccination appointment a positive experience, please ensure they have had something to eat or drink before their appointment and that they wear a top that allows for easy access to the upper arm such as a loose-fitting top or a t-shirt. Public Health is mindful that some children may be anxious and have a fear of needles. Immunizers are trained to help children have a comfortable experience.

- **In-School Clinics:** In-school clinics will offer children aged 5 to 11 with a more relaxed and familiar environment. Public Health Sudbury & Districts have designed child vaccination clinics to operate at a slower pace and our experienced immunizers have undergone training to best set your child(ren)'s experience up for success.
- **Community Clinics:** Most vaccination clinics throughout the service area will offer dedicated immunization stations for children aged 5 to 11 years and allow all family members to be vaccinated at the same time. Public Health Sudbury & Districts has also taken efforts to offer a more child-centered environment, with reduced noise and sensory areas.

Other important information about the COVID-19 vaccine for children

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

We know that children can become infected and spread the virus to others, even if they have mild or no symptoms. Vaccinating children and youth will provide them with a strong level of protection against COVID-19 and the highly contagious Delta variant, keep schools safe and open, and stop the spread of the virus. This will help protect other family members too, such as those under five years old who can't yet get vaccinated, or more vulnerable elderly individuals in our families.

Will children aged 5 to 11 receive the same dosage of the COVID-19 vaccine as other age groups? What is the dose interval for this age group?

No. Children who are aged 5 to 11, including those turning 5 in 2021, will receive the pediatric Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine. The pediatric dose is one-third the amount given to individuals aged 12 and over. It is estimated to provide over 90% protection against symptomatic COVID-19 infection within 7-days of receiving their second dose. It is recommended that children receive their second dose after 8-weeks.

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

Yes, in most circumstances.

Most fully vaccinated children as long as they remain symptom-free, will be able to return to in-person learning even if their cohort (e.g. bus, class) has been dismissed or they are otherwise exposed to a person who has COVID-19. They must follow **testing** instructions and monitor for symptoms. Fully vaccinated children returning to school are **not permitted to participate in extra-curricular activities** within the school or in the community for 10 days following the dismissal date or their exposure date.

In certain circumstances, some fully vaccinated children (or children who were previously positive for COVID-19 within the last 90 days), will be required to self-isolate if they are exposed to COVID-19. There are stricter rules currently in place for the entire Sudbury and districts area. This means that if a fully vaccinated child is exposed to a person with COVID-19 who is also fully vaccinated (i.e., "**breakthrough** case"), or has a **household member** who is a case, the child must self- regardless of their vaccination status.

Will children who are not fully vaccinated need to stay-at-home if someone in their own household is isolating due to a COVID-19 exposure? in the event of an exposure to COVID-19 or outbreak?

Yes. Children and youth who are not protected (for example, not fully vaccinated or previously positive within the last 90 days) will need to **stay-at-home** if someone in their **household is self-isolating** because they are an **unprotected contact** of a COVID-19 case.

Stay-at-home means staying away from school and daycare for the duration of their household member's isolation period. Stay-at-home does not mean that the child has to self-isolate but they must not gather with others outside of their household if these people are not fully vaccinated.

Will children receive proof that they are vaccinated?

Yes. Vaccine certificates with QR codes will be available for children aged 5 to 11 on the [COVID-19 vaccination portal](#) as a record of their vaccination. However, at this time there are no requirements for children aged 5 to 11 to show proof of vaccination in Ontario. There may be different requirements in other jurisdictions.

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

Parent(s) and guardian(s) play a key role in the decision for COVID-19 vaccination among children. 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, we have included the Ministry of Health's COVID-19 Vaccine Information Sheet: For Children (age 5-11) 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. For additional information, please refer to SickKids [COVID-19 Vaccine Consult Service \(VSC\)](#), and the Canadian Medical Association in partnership with the Ontario Association of Children's Aid Societies' [Max the Vax](#) campaign for trusted information for parents, caregivers, and youth.

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 is not available, you will be asked for confirmation of your child(ren)'s identity. You may also use other government-issued documents, or a combination of non-government-issued documents confirming your child(ren)'s identity, such as a letter from your school or childcare provider, medical provider, or faith leader.

Youth and Family Resources

[COVID-19 Vaccine Information Sheet: For Children \(age 5-11\)](#) (Ministry of Health, PDF)
[Paediatric Pfizer COVID-19 Vaccine: Frequently Asked Questions](#) (Ministry of Health, webpage)
[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)
[Vaccines for children: COVID-19 - Canada.ca](#) (Health Canada, website)
[COVID-19 Vaccine Consult Service](#) (SickKids, website)
[Max the Vax Campaign](#) (Ontario Association of Children's Aid Societies, website)

COVID-19 Vaccine Information Sheet: For Children

(age 5-11)

This document provides basic information only and is not intended to provide or take the place of medical advice, diagnosis or treatment, or legal advice.

The pediatric Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine is the only COVID-19 vaccine authorized by Health Canada for children aged 5 (or turning 5 in 2021) to 11.

Please read this information sheet carefully and make sure all your questions have been answered by a health care provider before your child gets the vaccine.

What is the COVID-19 Vaccine?

- The COVID-19 vaccine protects your child from getting sick from the virus that causes COVID-19. This is important because COVID-19 can cause severe sickness or death.
- The vaccine does not contain a live virus. Your child cannot get COVID-19 from the vaccine.
- The vaccine for children in this age group is a smaller dose (one-third) than the vaccine used for adolescents and adults.
- The vaccine is given as a needle in the upper arm muscle.
- It is important that your child receive all recommended doses of the vaccine to get long-term protection against COVID-19. Children 5 – 11 years old are recommended to receive two doses, 8 weeks apart for optimal, longest lasting protection. This interval may be associated with a lower risk of myocarditis and/or pericarditis.



Before receiving the vaccine, tell the health care provider at the clinic who is providing the vaccine if your child:



- Is currently feeling sick or have signs and symptoms of COVID-19.
- Has any allergies or had an allergic reaction to a previous COVID-19 vaccine dose or another vaccine.
- Was diagnosed with myocarditis or pericarditis following a COVID-19 vaccine or has had myocarditis before.
- Is immunosuppressed due to disease or treatment
- Has ever fainted or became dizzy after getting a vaccine or a medical procedure or has a fear of needles.
- Has a bleeding disorder or are taking medication that could affect blood clotting.

What are the normal side effects to expect after receiving the vaccine?

Some mild side effects may occur after getting the COVID-19 vaccine, such as pain and swelling where the vaccine was given, tiredness, muscle soreness, or headache. These side effects are normal signs that the body is building protection. Serious side effects after receiving the vaccine are rare.



Vaccine Ingredients and Allergies

The vaccine contains lipids (fats), salts, sugars and buffers. It does not contain eggs, gelatin (pork), gluten, latex, preservatives, antibiotics, adjuvants, or aluminum. The vaccines are safe, even if you have food, drug, or environmental allergies. Talk to a health care provider first if your child is allergic to polyethylene glycol (PEG) and/or Tromethamine (tromethamol or Tris). Serious allergic reactions (anaphylaxis) to the vaccine are rare and can be treated. Get medical help if your child has trouble breathing or develops hives or swelling in their face and throat after being vaccinated.

If my child is feeling unwell after the vaccine, when should I call a health care provider?

If your child has a high fever (over 40°C or 104°F) or side effects that are worrying you or do not seem to be going away after a few days, contact your child's health care provider or seek medical attention. Go to the nearest **emergency department or call 911** if they have serious drowsiness, seizures/convulsions, hives, swelling of the face, throat or mouth, trouble breathing or other serious symptoms.

Please seek medical attention if your child develops any of the following symptoms after receiving the vaccine: chest pain, shortness of breath and/or palpitations (pounding or racing heart) or feeling of a rapid or abnormal heart rhythm. These may be symptoms of myocarditis (inflammation of the heart muscle) or pericarditis (inflammation of the sac of the heart), which is a very rare and treatable side effect from the vaccine.

If I have questions, who should I ask?



If you have any questions, please speak with a health care provider or the person providing the vaccine. You can also contact your [local public health unit](#) to ask questions or to report an adverse reaction.

COVID-19 Vaccine Children/ Youth (Age 5-17) Consent Form

Version 3.0 –November 22, 2021

Child/Youth Last Name:	Child/Youth First Name:	Child/Youth Identification number (e.g., health card number):	
Child/Youth Gender: <input type="checkbox"/> Female <input type="checkbox"/> Male <input type="checkbox"/> Prefer not to answer <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____		Child/Youth's Primary Care Clinician (Family Physician, Pediatrician, or Nurse Practitioner):	
If Indigenous, please indicate Child/Youth's Indigenous identity: <input type="checkbox"/> First Nations <input type="checkbox"/> Métis (includes members of the Métis organization or Settlement) <input type="checkbox"/> Inuk/Inuit <input type="checkbox"/> Other Indigenous, specify: _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Prefer not to answer <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown			
Mobile Phone:	Parent/legal guardian phone:		
Street Address:	City:	Province:	Postal Code:
Child/Youth Date of Birth: ----- / ----- / ----- month day year	School the Child/Youth is currently attending: _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Prefer not to answer <input type="checkbox"/> Home school <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown <input type="checkbox"/> Not attending school		
Has the Child/Youth 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: -----/-----/----- (month, day, year) First dose product name: -----			
Second Dose date: -----/-----/----- (month, day, year) Second dose product name: -----			

Consent to Receive the Vaccine

I have read (or it has been read to me) and I understand the Immunization Prepackage, including the following documents: 'COVID-19 Vaccine Information Sheet' or the 'COVID-19 Vaccine Information Sheet: For Children (age 5-11)' and What you need to know about your Covid-19 vaccine appointment. I have had the opportunity to ask questions regarding the vaccine and to have them answered to my satisfaction. I understand that I may withdraw this consent at any time.

☐ I consent to receiving all recommended doses in the vaccine series.

OR

☐ I am consenting on the patient's behalf to receive all recommended doses in the vaccine series and I confirm that I am the patient's substitute decision maker (e.g., parent, legal guardian).

Note: Please contact the vaccination clinic if you no longer consent to receiving the vaccine. If consent has been withdrawn by a substitute decision maker of an individual who resides in a congregate setting, then the congregate setting must contact the local public health unit.

Acknowledgement of Collection, Use and Disclosure of Personal Health Information

The personal health information on this form is being collected in accordance with the *COVID 19, Vaccination Reporting Act, 2021* for the purpose of providing care and creating an immunization record, 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 in accordance with the *Personal Health Information Protection Act, 2004* and as 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*.
And
- 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.**

You may be contacted by a hospital, local public health unit, or the Ministry of Health for purposes related to the COVID-19 vaccine (for example, to remind you of follow up appointments, to provide you with a record of immunization). If you agree to receiving these follow up communications by email or text/SMS, please indicate this using the box below.

☐ **I consent to receiving follow-up communications:**

☐ **by email** ☐ **by text/SMS**

If you agreed to be contacted by email or text/SMS, please provide your email address or your text/SMS number: _____

Consent to Being Contacted About Research Studies

You have the option of consenting to be contacted about participation in COVID-19 vaccine related research studies/surveys. If you consent to be contacted, personal health information may be used and your name and contact information will be disclosed to researchers. Consenting to be contacted about research studies does not mean you have consented to participate in the research itself. You may refuse to be contacted about research studies without impacting eligibility to receive the COVID-19 vaccine. If you change your mind, you may withdraw consent at any time by contacting the Ministry of Health at vaccine@ontario.ca.

☐ **I consent to be contacted about COVID-19 vaccine related research studies:**

☐ **by email** ☐ **by text/SMS** ☐ **by phone** ☐ **by mail**

If selected by email, please provide your email address: _____

☐ **I do not consent to be contacted about COVID-19 related research studies**

Signature	Print Name	Date of Signature

☐ If signing for someone other than myself, I confirm that I am the substitute decision maker.

If signing for someone other than yourself, indicate your relationship to the person you are signing for: _____

FOR CLINIC USE ONLY							
Agent	COVID-19	Product Name		Lot #		Dose Amount:	
Anatomical Site	<input type="checkbox"/> Left deltoid <input type="checkbox"/> Right deltoid	Route	Intramuscular (IM)		Dose #:		
Date Given	_____ / _____ / _____ (mm/dd/yyyy)			Time Given	_____ : _____ am pm	AEFI? (after receiving current dose)	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Given By (Name, Designation)					Location		
Authorized By							
Reason for Immunization		<input type="checkbox"/> Child/Youth 5+ <input type="checkbox"/> Age Priority Population – Age Eligible Population <input type="checkbox"/> Other reason: _____					
Reason Immunization Not Given		<input type="checkbox"/> Immunization is contraindicated <input type="checkbox"/> Practitioner recommends immunization but no PATIENT consent <input type="checkbox"/> Practitioner decision to temporarily defer immunization <input type="checkbox"/> Medically Ineligible <input type="checkbox"/> Patient withdrew consent for series					
Your next dose is scheduled for:		_____ / _____ / _____ (mm/dd/yyyy) _____ : _____ am pm					