

COVID-19 vaccine is now available for youth 12 and up

Vaccines are safe, effective, and are the best way to protect your child, your family, and your community from COVID-19. Vaccines will help students and families to safely resume normal activities as soon as possible.

Who Is Eligible for the Vaccine

Health Canada has authorized the use of the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine for youth aged 12 and up. Ontarians aged 12 to 17 are now able to book an appointment for a free first dose of the vaccine. A youth must be at least 12 years of age on the day of their vaccination.

Youth do not need to attend a clinic with a parent or guardian, and under the provincial [Health Care Consent Act \(HCCA\)](#), there is no minimum age requirement to provide consent for treatments such as a vaccine. See [Child & Youth COVID-19 Vaccine Fact Sheet](#) for information on informed consent.

Where to Get Vaccine

You **must** have an appointment to receive a COVID-19 vaccine at a clinic. To help avoid crowding and make the process as smooth as possible for everyone, we kindly ask that you arrive no more than ten minutes before your appointment time.

Youth aged 12 to 17 **must book ahead for an appointment** and can access vaccine at one of the following:

- **Special “youth clinics”** happening throughout the week of June 14 (clinics subject to change so check [Health Unit website](#) for updates):

North Bay

Date	Location	Time
Monday, June 14	Memorial Gardens	4p.m. – 8p.m.
Wednesday, June 16	Memorial Gardens	4p.m. – 8p.m.
Thursday, June 17	Memorial Gardens	4p.m. – 8p.m.
Saturday, June 19	Memorial Gardens	12p.m. – 6p.m.

Parry Sound

Date	Location	Time
Tuesday, June 15	Bobby Orr Arena	4p.m. – 7p.m.
Sunday, June 20	Bobby Orr Arena	12p.m. – 4p.m.

Sundridge

Date	Location	Time
Wednesday, June 16	SSJ Arena	4p.m. – 7p.m.

West Nipissing

Date	Location	Time
Friday, June 18	Sturgeon Falls Arena	4p.m. – 7p.m.
Sunday, June 20	Sturgeon Falls Arena	12p.m. – 4p.m.

Mattawa

Date	Location	Time
Thursday, June 17	Mike Rodden Arena	4:30p.m. – 6p.m.

- **Mass immunization clinics for general population** - check [Health Unit website](#) for dates (*call the Health Unit in advance at 1-844-478-1400 to verify availability of Pfizer BioNTech vaccine at that clinic*)
- **Local pharmacies** (*call in advance to verify availability of Pfizer BioNTech vaccine*)

How to Register for Vaccine Appointment

Booking for special “youth clinics” opened Monday, May 31 at 8a.m. A vaccine appointment can be booked by either the person receiving the vaccine or, with their permission, by their parent or guardian. The online booking system will only allow one child to be booked in at a time.

- If you **do** have a Health Card (OHIP) - book online at [Ontario.ca/bookvaccine](https://ontario.ca/bookvaccine) or call 1-833- 943-3900. Hours of operation are 8 a.m. to 8p.m. daily.
- If you **do not** have a Health Card (OHIP) - call 1-844-478-1400. Call Centre is open from 8:45 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday to Friday.

Second dose clinics for youth will be held the weeks of August 9 and 16, 2021. Second dose appointment details will be provided at the end of the first dose appointment.

Transportation to a Youth-Specific Clinic

Free transportation is available for youth who require it to attend youth-specific vaccine clinics from June 14 to June 20, 2021.

- Student Transportation Operators are prepared to be available to provide this service on an as needed basis;
- If youth have not registered yet, please do so as soon as possible;

- If youth have not registered because transportation is a barrier, arrangements can be made. Youth should register for a vaccine appointment and then contact the Nipissing Student Transportation Services (NPSSTS) at (705) 472-8840 between 8:30 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. Monday to Friday to arrange transportation;
- The NPSSTS will serve as the point of contact for these purposes;
- For insurance and safety reasons, the School Bus Operators advise the following is needed:
 - That a parent, guardian accompany the student(s);
 - That all students and adults self-screen for COVID 19 before boarding the vehicle;
 - That all passengers must wear a face covering to ride the vehicle;
 - That all passengers be picked up at a designated stop, which may or may not be the home address;
 - Operators will maintain at least one staff member within their respective offices for communication purposes in case of an emergency (normal home to school protocol), as will the NPSSTS.
- There will be no issue with a passenger displaying symptoms of COVID-19 subsequent to their vaccination and no one will be stranded due to vaccination-induced symptoms.

Where to Learn More About the COVID-19 Vaccine & Youth

Most children with COVID-19 have mild symptoms or none at all. However, some children with COVID-19 can get very sick. Children can also spread COVID-19 to other people. Vaccinating children protects them from getting sick and reduces virus spread within their household and the community.

To help your child and your family to make an informed decision, the Government of Ontario has developed a fact sheet (attached) based on expert medical advice and scientific information. It covers several key areas including:

- Safety of the vaccine for youth
- Why vaccination is important
- Effectiveness of the vaccine for youth

As well, we have a [dedicated webpage](#) that outlines how to book and prepare for your child's vaccination appointment. It provides information about the province's current plan for youth vaccinations, answers key questions around safety and effectiveness, and provides links to external sites for more information. You and your child are also encouraged to talk to your health care provider or contact [your local public health unit](#) if you have questions about the vaccine. Supporting your child to be vaccinated against COVID-19 is an important step in the fight against this disease. It will be a key factor in helping our school community return to a sense of normalcy and will benefit overall physical and mental health for children, youth and their families.