

Get your COVID-19 vaccine when it is available so you can get back to the activities you enjoy!

Thank you for all the sacrifices you have made over the past year. We know it's been hard missing friends, activities, school and so many of the things and people you love.

We are confident that things will return to normal soon – and you have an important role to play in making this happen.

Am I Eligible for the COVID-19 Vaccine?

The Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine is authorized for youth aged 12-17 years old. The vaccine is free, voluntary, safe, and it works. You must be at least 12 years of age on the day of your vaccination.

Can I Consent to this Vaccine?

COVID-19 vaccines are only provided if informed consent is received from the person to be vaccinated, including those aged 12 to 17, and as long as you have the capacity to make this decision.

This means that you understand:

- what vaccination involves,
- why it is being recommended; and
- the risks and benefits of accepting or refusing to be vaccinated.

At the clinic, the healthcare provider will go through this information with you and answer any questions you have.

Even if you are able to provide informed consent, it would be a good idea to talk about this decision with your parent/guardian or an adult you trust such as your principal or a teacher.

If you are not able to consent to receiving the vaccine, you require consent from your substitute decision-maker, such as your parent or legal guardian.

Where Can I Get My 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*)

You do not need to attend a clinic with a parent or guardian, but they are welcome to come with you.

How Do I Register for a Vaccine Appointment?

Booking for special “youth clinics” opened Monday, May 31 at 8a.m. A vaccine appointment can be booked by you, or with your permission, by your parent or guardian.

- 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.

Why Should I Get the COVID-19 Vaccine?

Getting vaccinated against COVID-19 is a way that you can protect yourselves, your family, your friends and your community. Although you are less likely to experience serious illness from COVID-19, some young people do get sick and require hospitalization. Vaccines are the best way to prevent this from happening. Vaccines protect us by helping our body build immunity and decreasing our chance of spreading it to others. Millions of doses have already been given to youth worldwide and are proven to work well and be very safe.

Getting vaccinated means getting closer to the things you love doing like hanging out with friends, sports, volunteering and going to school. The faster everyone gets vaccinated, the sooner life can return to normal.

If you have any questions, reach out to your parents, a trusted adult and/or your family doctor, pediatrician or nurse practitioner. Your [local public health unit](#) will also have accurate information regarding COVID-19 and vaccines. While there is also a lot of information on the Internet and social media, not all of it is accurate. If you are looking for information about COVID-19 vaccines, be sure to rely on trusted, expert sources. You can also learn more at Ontario.ca/COVIDYouthVaccine.