

COVID-19 vaccine is now available for youth born in 2009

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 born in or before 2009.

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

Vaccine can be accessed at one of the following:

- **In-School Clinics** (*More information about these clinics will be communicated through school boards and schools*)
- **Immunization clinics** (*Please visit [myhealthunit.ca/GetVaccinated](#) for up-to-date information on scheduled clinics across the Health Unit district*)
- **Local pharmacies** (*call in advance to verify availability of Pfizer BioNTech vaccine*)

How to Register for Vaccine Appointment

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](#) 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.

Walk-ins are welcome at community clinics. Walk-in hours are outlined in the clinic schedule, which can be found at [myhealthunit.ca/GetVaccinated](#).

Second dose appointment details will be provided at the end of the first dose appointment.

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.