

November 25, 2021

Dear Students and Families,

Re: COVID-19 vaccine clinics for children aged 5-11 years

Effective November 23, 2021, parents and guardians are eligible to book their 5 to 11 year old children for an appointment to receive the COVID-19 vaccine. The Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine has now been approved for use in children aged 5 to 11 years by Health Canada. This is the first COVID-19 vaccine authorized in Canada for use in this age group and marks a major milestone in Canada's fight against COVID-19. The recently approved paediatric version is a lower two-dose series (one third of what is available for individuals 12 years and older) given eight weeks apart.

Who is eligible for the paediatric vaccine?

Children born between 2010 and 2016 are now eligible to receive the Pfizer-BioNTech children's COVID-19 vaccine. Two doses of the vaccine are recommended with at least 8 weeks between the first and second dose. It is recommended that the COVID-19 vaccine be given to your child 14 days before or after any other vaccines. Speak with your health care provider if you have questions.

How to get the vaccine?

COVID-19 vaccine appointments in the Peterborough region are being booked through the provincial vaccine booking system. Clinics will start on Monday November 29th, and can be booked now by,

- Booking online at <https://covid-19.ontario.ca/book-vaccine/> OR
- Calling the provincial vaccine booking call centre at 1-833-943-3900.

These clinics are by appointment only and are dedicated to vaccinating children of this age group. Older children and family members will not be able to get their vaccine at these clinics but remain eligible to receive either their first or second dose at a community clinic. Visit www.peterboroughpublichealth.ca/vaccineclinics for information on bookings for residents aged 12 years and over. More child friendly clinics may be offered throughout our region; information on the dates and locations of these clinics will be shared as soon as possible.

Peterborough Public Health will be hosting child friendly clinics in our community at both the Healthy Planet Arena and in select schools, starting with the following:

- **Fri Dec 3rd – Norwood District High School** (44 Elm St, Norwood)
- **Fri Dec 10th – Apsley Public School** (238 Burleigh St, Apsley)
- **Fri Dec 17th – St Martin Catholic Elementary School** (531 Ennis Rd, Ennismore)
- **Mon Dec 20th – Millbrook/South Cavan Public School** (47 Tupper St, Millbrook)
- **Wed Dec 29th – Lakefield District Public School** (71 Bridge St, Lakefield)

Why is vaccination against COVID-19 so important?

Getting vaccinated will help keep you and your family as safe as possible. Children and youth who get infected with COVID-19 typically experience mild symptoms. However, some can get very sick and require hospitalization. Like adults, children and youth with the virus can transmit it to others, even if they don't feel sick. Protecting yourself through vaccination will help limit the spread of

COVID-19 to others, which helps keep your family, schools, and community as safe as possible. Vaccination will help protect other family members too, such as those who are too young to receive the vaccine yet or vulnerable elderly individuals.

All vaccines work by presenting our body with something that looks like the infection so that our immune system can learn how to produce its own natural protection. This natural protection then helps to prevent illness if you come into contact with the COVID-19 virus in the future. You cannot get COVID-19 from the vaccine.

How will vaccines help keep schools as safe as possible?

Infection prevention protocols have helped keep the risk of spread of COVID-19 within the school setting low in our region. Getting vaccinated will help reduce the risk even more.

Where can I find more information?

To make an informed decision about the COVID-19 vaccination, you can find more information at peterboroughpublichealth.ca or by calling the provincial vaccine inquiry centre at 1-888-999-6488. Visit ontario.ca/covidvaccinekids to learn more about COVID-19 vaccines for children and youth.

Additional information is available at:

- [Child and Youth COVID-19 Vaccine Fact Sheet](#)
- [Talking to your Child about the Vaccine](#)

In addition, you can contact the SickKids COVID-19 Vaccine Consult Service to book a confidential phone appointment with a SickKids paediatric Registered Nurse through sickkids.ca/vaccineconsult, or call 1-888-304-6558.

A FREE COVID-19 Vaccine Information Session for Families will be held on December 9, 2021 at 6:30pm. Peterborough Public Health's new Medical Officer of Health, Dr. Piggott, will be hosting a virtual session to provide information to parents, guardians, and children about the paediatric dose of the COVID-19 vaccine. This information session will be streamed LIVE on the Peterborough Public Health YouTube Channel (<https://www.youtube.com/user/PCCHUHealthUnit>). However, you are encouraged to register for the event ahead of time. We will be collecting questions from participants when they register. These questions will help to inform the presentation. Registration will start on November 29th and the link can be found [here](#).

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.

We look forward to seeing you at our upcoming vaccination clinics!

Peterborough Public Health