



Halton Region Public Health
1151 Bronte Road
Oakville ON L6M 3L1

May 27, 2021

Dear Parents and Guardians,

COVID-19 vaccines are safe and effective, and the best way to protect your child, family, and community from COVID-19.

Starting **Monday, May 31**, Halton youth 12 to 17 years old who live or attend school in Halton, and older students returning to secondary school this September, will be able to book their COVID-19 vaccination appointments through our [online booking system](#). Booking appointments online is fast and easy to do. Attached, please find [step-by-step instructions](#) for booking vaccination appointments online. If you are not able to book an appointment online, please contact Access Halton by calling 311 or emailing accesshalton@halton.ca.

Halton Region Public Health, in partnership with local school boards, is committed to following Provincial direction to offer first doses to all 12 to 17 year olds in June, and second doses by the end of August. Appointments for the Youth Vaccination Program will be available at Halton COVID-19 vaccination community clinic locations administering the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine. Please note that youth must have had their 12th birthday by the date of the first dose of COVID-19 vaccine.

To help youth and families, the Government of Ontario has developed a fact sheet (attached) based on expert medical advice and scientific information. It covers key areas including:

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

Halton Region Public Health has [dedicated webpages](#) that provide additional information about vaccine safety, and how to book and prepare for your child's vaccination appointments.

Supporting your child to be vaccinated against COVID-19 is an important step in the fight against this disease. Vaccination will help students and families safely resume normal activities as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Meghani".

Dr. Hamidah Meghani,
Medical Officer of Health

Regional Municipality of Halton

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How to Book Youth COVID-19 Vaccination Appointments

This page shows how to book appointments for youth to receive the COVID-19 vaccine.

Important things to know:

- Vaccination for youth 12 years and older is safe, effective and the best way to be protected from COVID-19.
- Youth 12-17 years of age who live or attend school in Halton, and students 18 years of age and older who are returning to secondary school this fall, may book appointments.
- Youth are strongly encouraged to receive a first dose in June, and a second dose by the end of August.

How to Book Youth COVID-19 Vaccination Appointments

1. To book an appointment online, visit [Halton's COVID-19 Vaccination Clinic webpage](#).
2. Click on “Book your appointment now” in the blue banner. To access the vaccine appointment booking form, you will need to use the latest version of Chrome, Safari, Firefox or Microsoft Edge (Windows 10 only).

 Book your appointment now

Use the latest version of Chrome, Safari, Firefox or Microsoft Edge (windows 10 only)

3. Under the “Eligibility” section choose **“12-17 year olds and eligible students returning to secondary school”** tile and scroll down to complete the required information below.
4. Enter the date of birth and postal code of the youth. Answer the question on allergies. Answer the question on which appointment is being booked (1st and 2nd dose) and click “Next”.
 - a. If you are booking a “2nd dose only” appointment, you will be asked to indicate the date of the first dose, what vaccine was given and if the first dose was given in Ontario.
5. Under “Client Information”, answer the question if the youth is booking the appointment or if a parent/guardian is booking on their behalf. Enter the youth’s first and last name. If the youth has an Ontario Health Card, enter the number. If they do not have an Ontario Health Card, select “no”, choose an alternate form of

identification, and enter the identification number. If they do not have any of the alternative IDs listed they can select “other” and enter a number for an alternative ID such as an Ontario photo card or a student card. If the youth does not have any type of alternate forms of identification please call 311 to book an appointment.

- a. Enter the youth’s gender, address, phone number, email address (the email address of who the appointment confirmation will be sent to) and indicate if you wish to receive email communications related to your appointment from Halton Region. Click “Next”.
6. Under “Select Appointment” choose a 1st dose location and appointment time and then a 2nd dose location and appointment time and click “Next”. (Note: 1st dose appointments will be scheduled in June and 2nd dose appointments will be scheduled in August. Appointments do not need to be at the same location).
 7. Under “Review”, answer the question on whether or not you would like to be on the standby list to possibly receive an earlier appointment. Verify whether the information provided is correct and click “Book Now”.
 8. Under “Confirm”, confirm the 1st and 2nd dose appointment location, dates and times provided. You will be able to print this page. If you provided an email address, you will receive a confirmation email with the appointment details. You will also receive a reminder email closer to the appointment day.

If you have trouble following these steps to book an appointment, you may call 311 to ask for help. Please only call 311 if you are unable to book online.

Child and Youth COVID-19 Vaccine Fact Sheet

Here are 10 things to know about the COVID-19 vaccination for children and youth aged 12 to 17.

1. Vaccination for children and youth 12 years and up is safe and effective.

Vaccines are safe, effective and the best way to be protected from COVID-19.

Health Canada has authorized the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine for youth ages 12 to 17 and has determined it is safe in youth with no serious side effects.

Close to 3 million doses of the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine have already been given to those aged 12 to 17 in the United States. No serious side effects have been identified in this age group.

In clinical trials, the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine has been demonstrated to be highly effective at protecting against COVID-19 for individuals 12 and over. Youth can often have very good immune response following vaccination, resulting in strong protection.

2. Children, like adults, may experience temporary side effects.

The side effects after receiving a vaccination are different for every person, and most are mild and easily tolerated.

Your child might notice tenderness or pain where the vaccine was given in the upper arm. They could also feel fatigue, headache, achy muscles or joints, and fever and chills. These side effects generally clear up within 1 to 3 days. They are also a positive sign that the vaccine is beginning to work.

3. Vaccines are important for children and youth because they can get infected with COVID-19 and spread it to others, even if they don't have symptoms.

Children who get COVID-19 typically experience mild symptoms – however, others can get very sick, require hospitalization and experience more serious and longer-lasting symptoms. In very rare cases, the virus can also cause death in children. Children can also spread the disease to others who may be at higher risk of illness.

4. The vaccine is very safe for most people, including anyone who has a medical condition.

Individuals taking medications that weakens their immune system or those with allergies to any of the vaccine

ingredients should consult with their health care provider. COVID-19 vaccines do not contain eggs, gelatin (pork), gluten, latex, preservatives, antibiotics or aluminum.

Because people who have medical conditions are often at higher risk of becoming more ill if they are infected with COVID we strongly encourage these individuals to be vaccinated as soon as possible.

As with adults, allergic reactions to the vaccine are rare. Symptoms include hives, swelling of the face, tongue or throat, or difficulty breathing.

Once vaccinated, individuals are required to stay at the clinic for 15 to 30 minutes after the vaccination to monitor and treat an allergic reaction if one occurs.

Health Canada has not yet approved COVID-19 vaccines for children under 12 years old.

5. You can't get COVID-19 from the vaccine.

The Pfizer-BioNtech COVID-19 vaccine tells your body how to make a harmless protein found on the COVID-19 virus and start building antibodies against it, so that your immune system will know how to recognize and fight the real virus if you come in contact with it.

6. If your child already had COVID-19, they can still get the vaccine.

Although a prior COVID-19 infection may provide some protection from getting sick again, we do not know how long that protection will last, and it may

not protect against new variants. If you are recovering from COVID-19, you should delay getting the vaccine until most of your symptoms are gone and you are no longer in self-isolation.

7. A health card is not needed.

If your child does not have a health card, you may need to book your appointment over the phone instead of online, and you can speak to your school, medical provider or faith leader to get a letter stating your child's name, date of birth and address.

If your child has a health card, they should bring it to the appointment.

8. The COVID-19 vaccine should be given alone and apart from other vaccines, if possible.

Other vaccines should be scheduled 14 days before or 28 days after the COVID-19 vaccine. If you are behind on your child's immunizations, please contact their health care provider to make a plan to get up to date on all your vaccines.

9. Vaccines are provided with informed consent.

COVID-19 vaccines are only provided if informed consent is received from the individual, including those aged 12 to 17, and as long as they have the capability to make this decision. This means understanding the treatment, why it is being recommended, and the risks and benefits if they accept or refuse to be vaccinated. If the individual is incapable of consenting to receiving

the vaccine, they would need consent from their substitute decision-maker, such as their parent or legal guardian.

The health care provider and family must respect a young person's decision regarding vaccination. Parents and guardians are encouraged to discuss vaccination with their children prior to attending a clinic. COVID-19 vaccination is voluntary for anyone eligible in Ontario.

10. Getting a COVID-19 vaccine will help your child resume the activities they enjoy and that support their mental health and wellbeing.

Vaccination is an important tool to help stop the spread of COVID-19 and allow students and families to safely resume normal activities.

When enough people are protected from COVID-19, the risk of infection for your child will begin to decline. Vaccines, along with mask-wearing, physical distancing and other precautions, will help protect the health of the broader community. Only after rates of COVID-19 in the broader community are low will normal activities for children and youth be possible again.

For more information and resources about COVID-19 and vaccines:

- [COVID-19 Vaccine Information Sheet](#)
- [COVID-19 What you need to know about your](#) COVID-19 vaccine appointment
- Get help and information in over 300 languages. Call [1-888-999-6488](tel:1-888-999-6488) ([TTY: 1-866-797-0007](tel:1-866-797-0007)) for information about the COVID-19 vaccine. Phone lines are available between 8:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m., 7 days a week. Press 3 to ask for your language. You may have to wait to speak to someone if call volumes are high.