

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 weeks of June 14 and 21 (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.
Tuesday, June 22	Memorial Gardens	4p.m. – 8p.m.
Thursday, June 24	Memorial Gardens	4p.m. – 8p.m.
Saturday, June 26	Memorial Gardens	12p.m. – 6p.m.
Sunday, June 27	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.
Friday, June 25	Bobby Orr Arena	4p.m. – 7p.m.

Sundridge

Date	Location	Time
Wednesday, June 16	SSJ Arena	4p.m. – 7p.m.
Monday, June 21	SSJ Arena	4p.m. – 7p.m.
Saturday, June 26	SSJ Arena	12p.m. – 4p.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.
Wednesday, June 23	Sturgeon Falls Arena	4p.m. – 7p.m.

Mattawa

Date	Location	Time
Thursday, June 17	Mike Rodden Arena	4:30p.m. – 6p.m.
Friday, June 25	Mike Rodden Arena	4:30p.m. – 6p.m.

- **Mass immunization clinics for general population** (*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” opens 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 9th and 16th, 2021. 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.

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:

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- **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” opens 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 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 9th and 16th, 2021. Second dose appointment details will be provided at the end of the first dose appointment.

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 again.

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.

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.

COVID-19 Vaccines now available for ages 12 to 17

Get the facts. Get the shot.

**COVID-19 vaccines
are safe, effective
and voluntary.**

Talk to a teacher, parent
or adult that you trust
before getting the vaccine.

