

## ST JOE'S FAMILY MEDICINE/ URBAN FAMILY HEALTH TEAM– OCTOBER UPDATES

Fall is here! With its beautiful transition of colours, leaves falling, gradual cooler days, and the daylight starts growing shorter. It also means that we will all slowly start spending more time indoors.

This highlights why it is so important that we **all get fully vaccinated against COVID-19** for the health and safety of you and your loved ones. Thank you to each of you who have taken this important step!

### If you are looking to book a COVID-19 vaccine

We are now offering 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> doses for all eligible patients at our clinic. Eligible patients can receive their third dose at an interval of eight weeks following their second dose. Please call our clinic to book your vaccine appointment. For more information on third doses of COVID-19 Vaccines [https://unityhealth.to/patients-and-visitors/covid-19/vaccine-clinics/#third-doses-block\\_6095526e93c3c](https://unityhealth.to/patients-and-visitors/covid-19/vaccine-clinics/#third-doses-block_6095526e93c3c)



The SickKids COVID-19 Vaccine Consult Service is a by-appointment phone service that provides a safe, judgement-free space to have an open conversation about the COVID-19 vaccine for children and youth. It is available in multiple languages, using over-the-phone language interpretation. To find out more go to <https://www.sickkids.ca/en/care-services/support-services/covid-19-vaccine-consult/>

### Looking for your Vaccine Receipts?

Proof of vaccination status can be downloaded in the form of a PDF from Ontario's provincial vaccine booking portal at <https://covid19.ontariohealth.ca/>. You will need: A green health card; Date of birth and postal code to obtain your receipt. **If you need support in printing your vaccination receipts**, you can print it for free at a Toronto Public Library. Learn more here: <https://www.tpl.ca/printfree>

### COVID19 symptoms

Please remember that anyone who [develops symptoms](#) of COVID19 is recommended to be tested, regardless of whether one has been vaccinated or not. Please see [here](#) for a list of COVID testing sites and follow public health guidance. If you are concerned about the severity of your or your family member's symptoms, you may call us to speak with one of our team members.

Please note that medical notes should not be required for return to work or school following COVID19 symptoms. This link provides you with a note that as a parent/guardian you can sign/print prior to having your child return to school/child care <https://www.toronto.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/9095-Attestation-for-Return-to-School.pdf>

### Increasing In-person appointments availability

We are continuing to book in-person appointments at BOTH sites (30 The Queensway and 27 Roncesvalles). So next time you call in, our clerical team will ask you what type of appointment you would prefer - in-person or virtual (phone, OTN and Zoom) - and they will then direct you to either location. Walk-ins will not be accepted.

### When you come On-site, please REMEMBER:

- You must pass our Screening Questions in order to complete your in-person appointment.
- If at any time before your in-person appointment you develop any symptoms, please call us to advise. Your appointment will NOT be cancelled, rather it may be converted to a virtual (phone or video) appointment instead.
- If you are experiencing any of the typical COVID-19 symptoms or you are not fully vaccinated, we may ask you to book an initial virtual visit instead of an in-person visit.

- Even if you have been fully vaccinated, when you come in you must wear a mask at all times, unless you are asked to remove it by your doctor or one of the staff.
- Use the designated seats in our waiting areas and use the dispensers to clean your hands regularly.
- In accordance with guidelines for Essential Care Partners (ECPs):
  - For **infants** (children 0 -12 months) may have two ECPs accompany infant to their in-person clinic appointment. This includes accessing the clinic and being present for the in-person appointment with appropriate PPE.
  - For **Pre-Natal** patients may have one ECP to support patient coming in for diagnostic tests (i.e. ultrasound) or to their consultative in-person appointments.
  - One ECP may accompany a patient with significant mobility and/or cognitive issues; those with significant language barrier, patients who are less than 18yrs old and those with intellectual/developmental disability.

Last updated: July 20, 2021




### ATTENTION PATIENTS AND VISITORS

- ✘ Do you have **ANY** of the following symptoms?
  - fever or chills
  - new or worsening cough
  - new or worsening shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
  - runny nose or nasal congestion (without underlying reason)
  - sore throat
  - decrease or loss of sense of taste or smell
  - new or unexplained vomiting, diarrhea or abdominal pain
  - clinical or radiological evidence of pneumonia
- ✘ Have you had unprotected close contact with a person who has confirmed COVID-19 in the last 14 days?
- ✘ Do you currently have confirmed COVID-19 (this does not include those who have recovered, are asymptomatic and have been cleared by Public Health)?
- ✘ Are you currently required to quarantine due to travel outside of Canada?

If you have passed these screening questions, you may proceed with your visit or appointment.

If you have **NOT** passed these screening questions, you may not be able to enter the building today. A member of the screening team will provide further direction.

### EAST Entrance –Ground floor Closure

Effective Monday, October 18 the 30 Queensway East Entrance – Ground floor door will be CLOSED to the public. Patients and families will access the Main Hospital building through either the Melnyk Main entrance or the Gilligan Entrance (formerly Tranquility). Whenever you come in for an appointment with us at Family Med/UFHT Please come through these entrances and look for the signs to enter and exit the building. **Please plan ahead to ensure you give yourself enough time to arrive to your in-person appointment.** [https://unityhealth.to/patients-and-visitors/covid-19/#preparing-for-your-appointment-block\\_60070e3f12217](https://unityhealth.to/patients-and-visitors/covid-19/#preparing-for-your-appointment-block_60070e3f12217)

### City of Toronto construction around St. Joe’s - Update

The City of Toronto and the Toronto Transit Commission (TTC) construction near St. Joseph’s Health Centre continues till the Fall of 2022, affecting traffic, pedestrian routes and TTC functions around the hospital. The work will occur in the following locations:

1. The King Street West, Queen Street West, The Queensway and Roncesvalles Ave (KQQR) Intersection to Oct/2021
2. The Queensway from Parkside Drive to Roncesvalles Ave, including The Queensway Bridge to Apr/22

Construction schedules are always subject to change so the dates outlined above are tentative. The City of Toronto’s webpage, <http://toronto.ca/kqqr> will have up-to-date information on any traffic, public transit or pedestrian route impacts to support your visit to the hospital. **Please plan ahead to ensure you give yourself enough time to travel to your in-person appointment.**

### Grade 7 & 8 Vaccines (kids born 2007-2009)

Toronto Public Health is restarting its publicly funded school vaccination program to protect students in grades 7 and up from 1) Hepatitis B; 2) human papillomavirus (HPV) and 3) meningococcal –quadrivalent disease. Students can now receive these FREE vaccinations by appointment only at City-run immunization sites. Appointments can be booked online at [www.tphbookings.ca/tph/studentvaccines](http://www.tphbookings.ca/tph/studentvaccines) for any City-run clinics Tuesdays to Saturdays between 1 p.m. and 7 p.m.

**Important:** The clinics will not accept walk-ins. If your child was born in 2007 or 2008, they may have missed some of these vaccines due to COVID19. Please consult first <https://tph.icon.ehealthontario.ca/#!/welcome> to check your child’s current vaccination status.

### Tetanus, Diphtheria & Pertussis Booster:

Kids need a booster of Tetanus Diphtheria & Pertussis at age 14-16. If your teen has not yet received one please make an appointment at our clinic to have this completed.

## Seasonal Flu Vaccine

The flu vaccine protects you against the influenza virus. To stay protected, we recommend that you receive the flu vaccine every year. The vaccine will be made available free of charge through many local pharmacies and community clinics. As we do every year, our team will be having some pre-scheduled in-person flu vaccine clinics throughout mid October, November & December. To make an appointment in one of these clinics please call our office at 416-530-6860 or at 416-530-6947. In keeping everyone safe, should you (or your family) develop any COVID-19 related symptoms, prior to your appointment, you will have to reschedule.



### We Are Here for You!

Please check out our newly revamped Unity Health Website at: [www.unityhealth.to/urbanfht](http://www.unityhealth.to/urbanfht)

Should you have any questions or concerns about your health, please call us at 416-530-6860 or at 416-530-6947 Monday to Friday from 9:00 to 17:00hrs.

**Here's to a healthy Fall season for all!**

St Joe's Family Medicine/  
Urban Family Health Team  
 ST. JOSEPH'S  
UNITY HEALTH TORONTO