

Dear Patients,

We trust that over the past several weeks you and your family have been able to enjoy the cooler summer breeze and some outdoor activities. Some of you may be also starting to get ready for back to school activities.

In this communication, we will share:

- > COVID-19 vaccine information for children 6 months to under 5 years of age and where to get your child vaccinated
- On-line appointment Booking coming to our St Joe's FMC/UFHT

COVID- 19 Vaccine Information for children 6 months to under 5 years of age

Vaccination continues to be the most effective way to protect us from severe illness and hospitalization from COVID-19. We strongly recommend all eligible patients, including those 6 months to under 5 years of age, to get vaccinated. Currently, the pediatric Moderna COVID-19 vaccine is the only product authorized for children aged 6 months to under 5 years of age. It is half of the dosage of the Moderna vaccine offered to children 6 to 11 years of age. The vaccine is safe and it works!

At this time, we DO NOT have these vaccines available in our St Joe's FMC/UFHT clinics.

Where to get your child vaccinated against COVID-19?

Currently there are many options to get these vaccines in the community. They include:

1. City of Toronto-run immunization clinics https://www.toronto.ca/home/covid-19/covid-19-vaccines/ or by calling 1-833-943-3900

Public health units may also offer additional options for vaccination of children aged 6 months to under 5 years old, such as walk-in clinics, which will not be on the COVID-19 vaccination portal. For information on local options, please visit your <u>local public health unit website</u>

- 2. Holland Bloorview Hospital is hosting a <u>fully accessible</u>, <u>sensory-and family-friendly vaccination clinic</u> for children aged 6 months and up with disabilities and/or complex care needs as well as their siblings, family members and the general public.
- 3. The Mid-West Ontario Health Team is hosting COVID-19 Vaccine Clinics at the Toronto Western Family Health Team (440 Bathurst St., 3rd Floor) for children ages 6 months to under 5 years. These clinics are by appointment only. Booking is <u>available online</u>. Vaccinators are nurses from SickKids who have lots of experience with this age group.
- 4. Pharmacy participating pharmacies can be found at https://covid-19.ontario.ca/vaccine-locations. Enter your postal code and tick "6m 5 yrs."

We encourage you to use any of these great options to get the vaccine!

If you would like to learn more about the Vaccine

SickKids Hospital has created a great Frequently Asked Questions page, and we strongly encourage you to take a look and review, especially if you are unsure about vaccinating your child at this link: COVID-19 Vaccines for children under 5

If you have more questions, we encourage you to call and book an appointment to speak with your doctor or nurse practitioner.

For more resources that may help support your decision making, see below:

- <u>City of Toronto</u>
- University of Waterloo- School of Pharmacy
- https://dfcm.utoronto.ca/confused-about-covid



ON-LINE Appointment Booking is coming to our St Joe's Family Med/UFHT this Fall!

We are happy to share with you that we are currently working on making available to our patients the opportunity to book their clinic appointments online. We will be launching online appointment booking in a step wise approach. To start, we will be offering on-line booking just for patients needing to book their cervical cancer screening (PAP smear) appointments. Based on results, we will progressively expand to other types of appointments in the future. Stay tuned, we will soon share further information on this!

Please get in touch with us!

To book an appointment in one of our scheduled clinics or should you have any questions or concerns about your health, please call us at **416-530-6860** or **416-530-6947** Monday to Friday from 9:00 to 17:00hrs.

St Joe's Family Medicine/Urban Family Health Team

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