

Patient Updates

August 13, 2021

Dear Patients,

Ontario is currently in stage 3 of the [Roadmap to Reopen](#) and we wanted to share a summary of some key developments, announcements and messages conveyed since we last wrote to you. In this message, we are sharing information about:

- Vaccination Clinics Currently Open
- Seeing a Healthcare Provider in August
- Essential Care Partner Guidelines
- Downtown East Toronto Ontario Health Team Community Advisory Committee Call Out

Vaccination Clinics Currently Open

If you haven't yet been vaccinated, you can still easily access a vaccine clinic! Vaccination is one of the most effective ways to protect your health. Vaccines work with the body's natural defenses to develop protection against a disease. COVID-19 vaccines provide instructions to your body's immune system to recognize and fight off the virus that causes COVID-19. Learn about the benefits of getting vaccinated [here](#), and specifically about vaccines and youth age 12 – 17 [here](#). At this time, we know that most [new infections](#) are happening in partially or unvaccinated individuals. If you're still considering getting the COVID-19 vaccine, please know your healthcare team is here to answer any questions you may have. For neighbourhood vaccination clinics, here are some options:

- Pharmacies: <https://covid-19.ontario.ca/vaccine-locations>
- [40 Oak Street Vaccine Clinic](#)
 - 40 Oak Street (Fred Victor Building)
 - Book an appointment here: <http://bit.ly/40OakVaccineClinic>
- [The Wellesley Community Centre](#)
 - 495 Sherbourne St. (east entrance, by the parkette)

- Book an appointment here: <https://www.stjamestown.org/>
- The Corner August 20th Pop Midnight Clinic
 - 200 Wellesley St., 7:00pm – 11:30pm
 - Drop in or book an appointment by calling: 416 347 0943
 - For transportation or interpretation supports call: 416 254 4006

Seeing a Healthcare Provider in August

Our team continues to be available to see you for your health concerns. Your first visit will continue to be virtual. If needed, you will be seen in-person for further assessment. We are preparing for more in-person care beginning in September.

Please note that our urgent care clinics also continue to be available Monday to Thursday evening and on weekends. Please view our [website](#) for more details on urgent care clinic locations and hours (scroll down to “urgent care clinics” on the page). Additionally, you can reach us for urgent concerns after clinic hours by calling your clinic phone number and following the prompts to speak to the Family Medicine resident on-call.

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.

Please remember that medical notes should not be required for return to work or school following COVID19 symptoms. We recommend a COVID-19 test and following public health guidance for [safe return](#).

If you are concerned at all about your or your child’s symptoms and need a virtual or in-person assessment, **please contact your clinic**.

Essential Care Partner (ECP) Guideline Changes

As of July 19th, Unity Health Toronto moved into [stage 3 of their Essential Care Partner guidelines](#). An Essential Care Partner is someone who is already a part of your family, community, or social circle, that you would like to accompany you when receiving care. Moving into stage 3 of the guidelines means that any patient requesting an Essential Care Partner to accompany them may have one so long as space permits social distancing. **We ask that you inform us at the time of booking in-person appointments whether an ECP will be accompanying you.**

Downtown East Ontario Health Team Community Advisory Committee

The Downtown East Toronto Ontario Health Team (DET OHT), is announcing the formation of a Community Advisory Council (CAC) for the Downtown East regional community to ensure that patients/clients, families, caregivers and the communities we serve are placed at the forefront of any decisions that are made. The CAC will be a collection of 8-12 members that will closely support in reviewing OHT work, identifying priorities and providing input into the future direction of DET OHT.

Those that represent the diverse needs and experiences of the Downtown East including people experiencing homelessness, unstable housing and/or individuals that experience or have experiences living with mental illness, or substance use, are especially encouraged to apply. Family members, caregivers and other community members involved in the care of persons with lived or living experience are also eligible to join. For more information, and to apply, email detoht@smh.ca.

While we all wait for more people to get their vaccines, please continue to follow public health measures; wear a mask, maintain 2 m distance from people outside your household, and wash your hands often. [Remember these tips](#) to stop the spread of COVID-19.

Take care and be well,

SMHAFHT Leadership Team