

Patient updates

Dear parents and/or guardians,

We are writing to share more information about **COVID-19 vaccination for children age 5-11** (or turning 5 in 2021), and urge you to get your child vaccinated as soon as possible! With the Omicron variant, it is more important than ever to not delay vaccination.

As you are probably aware, children aged 5 to 11 can now receive the Pfizer COVID vaccine. This pediatric COVID-19 vaccine is safe and effective for the 5 to 11 age group. We recommend eligible children get their COVID-19 vaccine, to help reduce the spread, protect children and their families, and help them get back to being kids again!

Here is what we know:

- The dose for children is 1/3 the adult dose.
- Children must be 5 years of age (or turning 5 in 2021) to receive their first dose.
- The time between a 1st dose and 2nd dose will be 8 weeks apart.
- At this time, it is **NOT** recommended for children in this group to have another vaccine given 14 days BEFORE or AFTER their COVID-19 vaccine as a precaution.

This is being highlighted to make sure you space out your child's COVID-19 vaccine with other vaccine appointments, including their flu vaccine.

Where can your child get the vaccine?

There are a few ways to book a vaccine for your child:

- 1) St. Joseph's now has a Paediatric COVID-19 Vaccine Clinic open to the public. Appointments can be booked at: <https://uht-public.vertoengage.com/>
It is open until Dec. 23, 2021 and then will reopen in the new year. For updates or information please go to <https://unityhealth.to/patients-and-visitors/covid-19/vaccine-clinics/>
- 2) Through the 40 Oak or the Wellesley Community Centre. Appointments can be booked at: <https://www.stjamestown.org/vaccine-booking/>

- 3) Every eligible person can still book in through the provincial website:
<https://covid-19.ontario.ca/book-vaccine/>
- 4) [City of Toronto vaccination clinics \(including daily Mobile Vaccination clinics near you \)](#)

Please note - We are not currently offering COVID paediatric vaccinations to 5-11 yrs. old patients at our St. Michael's Family Health Team clinics. If you need assistance in booking your vaccine at a community clinic, please call our clinics and Press 8 for booking support.

We have linked a few resources you may find helpful:

- [MAX the VAX-Ontario Association of Children's Aid Societies](#)
- [SickKids- a phone consult service for patients and parents](#)
- [University of Waterloo-FAQ](#)
- [Toronto Public Health- COVID-10: Children and Vaccines](#)

You can also view our previous [Patient Town Hall](#) from Nov. 23, where we discussed information about vaccines for kids.

Let's help our kids stay safe!

Take care and be well,

SMHAFHT Leadership Team