

Patient updates

Sept. 26, 2022

Dear patients,

We are writing to share some information, resources and updates about COVID-19 vaccines and flu vaccines for the fall 2022 season.

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
- Bivalent COVID-19 Vaccine and where to book an appointment
- Flu vaccines

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, get vaccinated. The vaccine is safe and it works!

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.

[COVID-19 Vaccines for children under 5](#)

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

For more resources that may help support your decision making, check out the following sites:

[City of Toronto](#)

[University of Waterloo- School of Pharmacy](#)

Where to get your child vaccinated against COVID-19

Thank you to everyone who completed our survey sent out in August. We are happy to read that many parents/caregivers are planning to or have already booked appointments to get their child vaccinated against COVID-19. After a review of available community vaccine clinics, and in order to balance ongoing needs for our patients, we have decided we will not offer these COVID-19 vaccines in our clinics. As we enter cold and flu season, we know demands for health care services will be high. We will continue to focus on providing access to primary care services for your ongoing health care needs.

There are great options that exist in the community. They include:

1. City of Toronto-run immunization clinics ([online booking* now available](#)):
 - o Crossroads Plaza,
 - o Cloverdale Mall,
 - o Mitchell Field Community Centre,
 - o Thorncliffe Park Community Hub
 - o 1940 Eglinton Ave. E
2. Regent Park CHC at 40 Oak and St Jamestown community corner are also offering vaccine appointments for everyone 6 months and older. This is a great community clinic option and we have worked closely with this clinic through the pandemic. To book with them [click here](#).
3. SickKids is offering vaccines at 555 University Ave on Wednesdays between 10 am and 3 pm. These are by appointment only. Specialized pediatric nurse vaccinators will be giving the vaccine and a child life specialist will be on site for any additional support. If you would like book an appointment with them, please email mobile.vaccination@sickkids.ca
4. Community [Pharmacies](#)-Check here or with your local pharmacy to see if they offer the COVID-19 vaccine for people 6 months to 5 years of age.

Bivalent COVID-19 Vaccine

Health Canada has approved COVID-19 bivalent vaccines for booster doses, which target both the original COVID-19 virus and the most recently circulating COVID-19 variants (such as Omicron). Since the bivalent vaccine is being offered as a booster dose, those who receive it must have already completed a primary series (2 or more doses). **Booster doses will be offered at a recommended interval of six months, or a minimum interval of three months, since the last dose received.** For more COVID vaccine information, including booster doses and eligibility, check our [Toronto Public Health's](#) website.

How to Book an Appointment

We won't be offering COVID-19 Vaccines in our clinics this fall. We recommend the following options to book your COVID-19 vaccine.

- [City-run immunization clinics](#)
- Community [pharmacies](#)
- [Regent Park CHC at 40 Oak and St Jamestown community](#)
- Provincial Vaccine Contact Centre at [1-833-943-3900](tel:1-833-943-3900).- *For people who had a boosted dose 3 months ago and would like the bivalent COVID-19 booster, please call to book an appointment*

After Sept 26th, all people 18+ will be eligible for the new bivalent vaccine as long as their last booster dose was at least 3 months ago.

Flu Vaccines

We will offer flu vaccines in our clinics this fall. We encourage patients to continue to use community clinics and pharmacies for these vaccines whenever possible. We are planning to have a weekend flu vaccine clinic as well as some evening and weekday options available in **early November**. Keep checking for more information about this in our messages over the next few weeks. **To avoid additional phone wait times, please hold off calling our clinics until we send out more information.**



Caring hearts. Leading minds.

We know there is a lot of vaccine information to share. Please use the resources listed in this message or call to book an appointment to speak with your doctor or nurse practitioner for individual questions or advice.

Take care and be well,

SMHAFHT Leadership Team