

Patient update

Feb. 17, 2023

Dear patients,

We are writing to let you know about the upcoming long weekend hours and vaccine updates. In this communication, we are sharing information about:

- Family Day Clinic Options
- General Vaccine Updates

Family Day Clinic Options

Our clinics will be closed on Monday Feb 20th for pre booked appointments. We will have an urgent care clinic open at our 95 Homewood location from 12-4 pm. The last patient will be registered at 3:30 pm. Please see our [website](#) for information on all evening and weekend urgent care clinics, and after-hours urgent care when our urgent care clinics are closed.

General Vaccine Updates

Routine Vaccines for Kids

Feb 23rd is National Kids and Vaccine Day. Routine vaccinations are important to protect children from a wide range of vaccine preventable illnesses. These include protection against measles, polio, hepatitis B, chicken pox, pneumonia, and many other serious illnesses. We want to remind all our patients that vaccines are safe and strongly recommended to help protect individuals and communities from preventable illnesses, hospitalizations and long-term complications. If you have any questions or concerns, or if you aren't sure if your child is up to date on their vaccines, we encourage you to book an appointment with your provider.

You can also tune into this upcoming webinar discussing kids and vaccines on Thursday Feb 23rd, from 5 PM. This webinar is hosted by [ScienceUpFirst](#) and [Children's Healthcare Canada](#). This webinar will be hosted online via zoom and requires people to register in advance. [Please clinic here to learn more and register.](#)

Grade 7 Vaccine Series

For any parents or caregivers with children in middle school or high school, it's important to know if your child is up to date on their Meningococcal, Hepatitis B, HPV, and Tdap vaccines. Most of these vaccines are given in schools through public health, however many people may be missing vaccines due to programs being on hold during COVID.

If you live in Toronto, Toronto Public Health (TPH) will be sending letters to high school students who are not up-to-date with their vaccines based on their records. If your child got their vaccines in our clinics you can call us to get a copy of their record. You can then update TPH with through their online portal www.toronto.ca/studentvaccines.

If your child missed any doses of Meningococcal, Hepatitis B or HPV, or need any catch up doses, we recommend booking an appointment at a TPH clinic (www.tphbookings.ca) or attending a clinic at their high school if available (schedule available at www.toronto.ca/immunization; School Immunization Program). To learn more about these vaccines and what to expect when you book an appointment with a city run clinic, please review [Toronto Public Health's information page](#). If you live outside of Toronto, we encourage you to look up your local public health unit for information about their programs.

If your child needs Tdap, please book an appointment in our clinics. We are also able to offer the Meningococcal, Hepatitis B or HPV, should your child prefer getting their vaccines with us.

Monkey Pox (MPOX) Vaccine

MPOX (formerly known as monkeypox) is a rare viral illness that causes fever, headache, swollen lymph nodes and tiredness, followed by a rash on the skin. It is usually spread by very close contact with someone who has the virus.

Anyone can get MPOX. However, during the current outbreak, gay, bisexual and men who have sex with men (MSM) communities have been impacted the most. At this time, MPOX has mostly spread between people who had close intimate/sexual contact with a person who has the virus. The virus also does not spread through casual contact.

The vaccine Imvamune, which requires 2 doses, is recommended for anyone who may be at a high risk of infection. To learn more about the vaccine or if you would benefit from receiving a vaccine, you can view a webinar from [Toronto Public Health here](#). On this webpage, you can also see location of clinics where the vaccine is offered, and how to book an appointment. Another great resource to learn more about the mpox vaccine and is the [Gay Men's Sexual Health Alliance](#)

If you have any questions about if this vaccine is right for you, please call to book an appointment with your provider to discuss.



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