

Patient Update

December 19, 2023

Dear St Michael's Family Health Team patients,

We are emailing to update you on some of our clinic closures in the coming weeks, as well as some information about the Canada disability benefit and an opportunity to share your feedback on this benefit.

Clinic Updates

As we enter the Holiday Season, we want to alert you to some clinic closures and modified hours over the next 2 weeks. Please see below for details about all the holiday hours between Dec 23rd and Jan 2nd. We encourage you to call the clinic first before arriving. This will allow our team to better accommodate your health need and anticipate your arrival.

Our clinics, including urgent care will be fully closed on Dec 25th and Jan 1st. If you need medical care or support on these days or any time our clinics are closed, we encourage you to call Health Connect Ontario at 1-866-553-7205 to speak with a nurse. Please inform the nurse you are a patient of the St Michael's Family Health Team. If your concern is an emergency, we advise you call 911 or go to your nearest emergency room.

Please see our [website](#) for our holiday hours and clinic phone numbers.

Holiday Hours

Please call ahead prior to coming to the clinic

Date	Hours of Operation
Saturday, December 23	Urgent Clinic Open 9-noon and 1- 4 p.m. Last check-in 3:30 p.m. Wellesley-St. James Town Health Centre 416-864-3096
Christmas Eve 2023 Sunday, December 24	Urgent Clinic Open 9a.m.- 1p.m. Last check-in 11:30 am Sumac Creek Health Centre 416-864-3022
Christmas Day Monday, December 25	CLOSED – ALL SITES
Boxing Day Tuesday, December 26	Urgent Clinic Open 12p.m. -4 p.m. Last check-in 3:30 p.m. Wellesley – St. James Town Health Centre 416-864-3096
Wednesday, December 27	REGULAR HOURS
Thursday, December 28	REGULAR HOURS
Friday, December 29	REGULAR HOURS
Saturday, December 30	Urgent Clinic Open 9-noon and 1- 4 p.m. Last check-in 3:30 p.m. Wellesley-St. James Town Health Centre 416-864-3096
New Year’s Eve Sunday, December 31	Urgent Clinic Open 9a.m.- 1p.m. Last check-in 11:30 am Sumac Creek Health Centre 416-864-3022
New Year’s Day 2024 Monday, January 1	CLOSED – ALL SITES
Tuesday, January 2	REGULAR HOURS

In case of a life-threatening emergency, call **911** or go to the emergency Department of the nearest hospital.

After-hours Phone Service

Need medical support when our clinics are closed?

Please call Health Connect Ontario at 1-866-553-7205 to speak with a nurse.

Language Interpretation

If you are more comfortable speaking a language other than English, let us know when you call, or tell us when you come into your appointment. We can connect you to an interpreter (on the telephone) at no cost.

Health Promotion Updates

We would also like to remind you of our patient communication from last month regarding managing cold and flu symptoms <https://unityhealth.to/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/smhafht-231103.pdf>.

Feedback wanted on upcoming Canada Disability Benefit

What is the Canada Disability Benefit?

The Canada Disability Benefit Act (the Act) became law when it received Royal Assent on June 22, 2023. The Act provides the framework for a new Canada Disability Benefit. This benefit is being created to reduce poverty and support the financial security of working-age people with disabilities.

Working-age Canadians with disabilities are twice as likely to live in poverty as working-age people without disabilities and the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic has made things even worse. That is why the Government of Canada is trying to address the financial hardships and other barriers faced by persons with disabilities.

Please find below, the link to send in feedback regarding the Canada Disability Benefit. This is open to all public to submit **until December 21, 2023** at 23:59 (Eastern Time) through the various methods (online, email, phone, mail etc.).

<https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/programs/disabilities-benefits/consultation-canada-disability-benefit-regulations.html>

Why your feedback is important?

The Government of Canada wants to hear from the public how the benefit should be designed so that it works in the favor of the people in need. It is also important for the government to know that the benefit should not affect the eligibility for current disability benefits that are tied to income, like the ODSP benefit. You have the chance to share feedback on aspects like - Eligibility, Benefit amount, Applications and payments, Administration among others.

As we come to the end of 2023, we want to thank you for reading our monthly updates. We hope you and your loved ones have a new year filled with joy, good health and peace.

Talk care and be well,
SMAFHT Leadership