

Patient Update

October 23, 2025

Dear patients,

We are writing to provide some seasonal vaccine information and where you can get your flu, RSV and COVID vaccines this fall. We encourage all patients to get these important vaccines if eligible, to help protect yourself, your family, and community.

Influenza (Flu) Vaccine

The flu vaccine is recommended for everyone 6 months of age and older. **Starting today, Oct. 23rd,** we will be opening up dedicated appointment bookings for flu vaccines in our clinics, beginning the week of October 27th. You can book an appointment by phoning our clinics or using our online booking tool. On-line appointment bookings will be available here. Please select the clinic you are a patient of and look for flu clinic appointment options. Appointment availability will be during our routine clinic hours Monday-Friday. Appointment options may vary based on the clinic.

The flu vaccine can also be received at any participating local pharmacy. Pharmacies can provide vaccines for people 2 years of age or older. We encourage you to use this option if our appointment times do not meet your needs.

For more information about the flu and protecting yourself and your family, please see <u>Toronto</u> Public Health's Website.

RSV Vaccine

Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) is a respiratory virus that infects the nose, throat, and lungs. It usually starts spreading in the fall and peaks in the winter months.

This year, Ontario will continue its RSV prevention program by offering immunizations to higher-risk individuals. This year RSV immunizations are available free-of-charge to the following groups of patients:

Infants- any baby born April 1^{st} , 2025 or after can receive a dose of Beyfortus in our clinics. If your baby has an upcoming visit, you can ask about this vaccine or it may be offered to you. This immunization can be given with other routine vaccines including a flu vaccine.



Older adults- all adults 75 years and older (or high-risk adults 60 years and older)-you can receive a RSV vaccine if you have not received a dose in previous years.

Pregnant individuals may also be eligible and should have a conversation with their obstetrical provider.

We will open up appointment bookings specifically for RSV vaccines in November once we have enough vaccine supply. We will send another email with booking instructions when they are available.

For more information about RSV, including high risk adult eligibility, and how to protect yourself and your family, please see <u>Toronto Public Health's Website</u>

COVID Vaccines

COVID vaccines are recommended to everyone 6 months of age and over, especially people at higher risk of getting sick. We encourage all our patients who are eligible to get a COVID vaccine this fall. COVID vaccines can be received at the same time as other routine vaccines including RSV and flu.

We will not have COVID vaccines available in our clinics this year. COVID vaccines can be received at any participating local pharmacy.

For children 6 months to 4 years of age Toronto Public Health is running dedicated COVID vaccine clinics. Appointments must be booked here

For more information about COVID, and how to protect yourself and your family, please see Toronto Public Health's Website

Finding a Local Pharmacy

You can use this pharmacy locator tool to help find pharmacies in your area that are offering COVID and flu vaccines. It also provides information about how to book an appointment. https://www.ontario.ca/vaccine-locations/

Take care and be well, SMAFHT Leadership