

Patient updates

Oct. 1, 2021

Dear patients,

We are writing to share new and updated information related to COVID-19 and our clinics. In this communication, we will share information about:

- Updated eligibility for third doses
- COVID-19 vaccine clinics
- How to access your COVID-19 vaccine receipts
- Flu vaccines - coming soon
- Get involved: Join our Patient and Family Advisory Council

Updated eligibility for third doses

As of Sept. 14, the following groups are eligible for a third dose of the COVID-19 vaccine:

- Residents of long-term care homes, high-risk retirement homes and elder care
- Transplant recipient (Including: solid organ transplant and hematopoietic stem cell transplant)
- Patient with hematological cancer(s) and on active treatment for malignant hematologic disorders (disorders including: lymphoma, myeloma, leukemia) (treatments including: chemotherapy, targeted therapies, immunotherapy)
- Recipient of an anti-CD20 agent (including: Rituximab, Ocrelizumab, Ofatumumab)
- Those undergoing active treatment for solid tumors;
- Those who are in receipt of chimeric antigen receptor (CAR)-T-cell;
- Those with moderate or severe primary immunodeficiency (e.g., DiGeorge syndrome, Wiskott-Aldrich syndrome);
- Stage 3 or advanced untreated HIV infection and those with acquired immunodeficiency syndrome; and
- Those undergoing active treatment with the following categories of

immunosuppressive therapies: anti-B cell therapies (monoclonal antibodies targeting CD19, CD20 and CD22), high-dose systemic corticosteroids, alkylating agents, antimetabolites, or tumor-necrosis factor (TNF) inhibitors and other biologic agents that are significantly immunosuppressive.

Eligible patients can receive their third dose at an interval of eight weeks following their second dose. The exact timing should be decided with the treating health care provider. At this time, third doses will only be given to patients who meet the provincial eligibility criteria. If you would like to learn more, you can read the [COVID-19 Vaccine Third Dose Recommendations](#), updated on Sept. 14.

If you believe you are eligible based on these criteria please note you will need to have a third dose [referral form](#) or letter from your treating specialist. If you do not have a specialist or cannot access them, please book an appointment with your Family Doctor or Nurse Practitioner.

COVID-19 vaccine clinics

The Family Health Team will be hosting a COVID-19 vaccine clinic every Saturday until end of November at our Wellesley-St. Jamestown clinic (95 Homewood Avenue). If you wish to book an appointment for your vaccine with us, you can call our clinics and “press 8” to book an appointment.

At these clinics we will be providing Pfizer and Moderna. First doses will be mostly Pfizer, however we will have Moderna available to match second or third doses to what patients previously received. Due to [updated guidance](#), Pfizer will be given to all patients who are 18-24. This is due to an observed increase in Ontario of the very rare heart condition called pericarditis/myocarditis following vaccination with Moderna in this age group. This update is out of an abundance of caution. Both vaccines continue to be safe and effective in preventing severe COVID-19 illness and hospitalization.

If you wish to book your first, second or third dose outside of our clinics, you can use the following links and locations:

- The provincial booking system: <https://covid-19.ontario.ca/book-vaccine/>
- Local community clinics: Wellesley Community Centre (495 Sherbourne Street) or Regent park (40 Oaks Street); book at <http://www.stjamestown.org/vaccine/> or <http://www.vaccineto.ca>
- Or Call: 416-347-0943

How to access your COVID-19 vaccine receipts

As of Sept. 22, 2021, you must provide proof of identification and proof of being fully vaccinated to access certain businesses and settings. You can access your vaccination receipts in the following ways:

- Online, by going to <https://covid-19.ontario.ca/covid-19-vaccine-booking-support#vaccination-receipts>.
- If you have a red and white health card, you call the provincial vaccine booking line at 1-833-943-3900. They can either email or mail you a receipt.
- If you do not have a health card, and need proof of vaccination, you can contact your local Public Health Unit to verify your identity and receive a COVID ID/Personal Access code. For people living in Toronto you can contact Toronto Public Health at 416-338-7600 for support. Callers will be invited to leave their contact information so a representative can return their call. Once you have an ID you can call the Provincial Vaccine Contact Centre at 1-833-943-3900 to get a copy of your receipt.
- For those with an iPhone, you can also access your vaccines and save to your phone using [this app](#).

Some people have not been able to find their record in the provincial portal, even if they have a green health card. If you cannot access your vaccination receipt, call the provincial booking line for assistance: 1-833-943-3900.

For more information about vaccination receipts, and public settings that require them, you can read the [Proof of COVID-19 Vaccination](#) update from the Government of Ontario.

Flu vaccines- coming soon

Flu season is around the corner. We will be offering flu vaccines to our patients who aren't able to go to a local pharmacy or public health clinic. We will send out more information about this next week.

The St. Michael's Hospital Academic Family Health Team Patient and Family Advisory Council (PFAC) is looking for new members

The St. Michael's Hospital Academic Family Health Team PFAC is a forum to engage and partner with our patients/families to create the best possible patient and family experience in primary care. Through inclusion, transparency, open dialogue and respectful relationships we work collaboratively to ensure the patient voice is central to our work. The council meets on the first Wednesday of each month for one hour, via zoom, and currently includes nine patients and family members. The group is co-chaired by a patient and staff member. The membership term is for one year, with the option of a one-year renewal. Our objectives are:

- To discuss organization specific items that relate to patient experience and engage in shared decision-making
- To create patient-led opportunities to improve care experiences

How to join:

If you are a patient of our Family Health Team and have ideas to help improve care for patients and families, we invite you to apply to join our council as a patient or family partner. Your voice matters to us and will help us improve the care we provide to all. To receive an application link, please contact Nassim Vahidi-Williams Nassim.Vahidi-Williams@Unityhealth.to.

Those who represent the diverse needs and experiences of the patients of the Family Health Team are especially encouraged to apply. We encourage applications from persons with disabilities, racialized persons, First Nations, Inuit and Métis people, people of all sexual orientations and gender identities, and others who may contribute to the diversity of our patient populations. Family members and caregivers involved in the care of patients are also encouraged to apply.

Hear it from one of our members:

"I have happily been a member since the inception of the Patient Family Advisory Council. Staff of the St. Michael's Hospital Academic Health Team were instrumental in forming a cohesive, constructive and collaborative team of people from culturally diverse backgrounds, work, volunteer and lived experiences. As a strong self-advocate and mental health consumer/survivor I joined the council to ensure those like me would

have a voice. As a member I feel respected, valued, listened to and validated. Being on the council also led to other endeavors at St. Michael's in which patient's opinions and views were needed."

Take care and be well,

SMHAFHT Leadership Team