

October 1, 2021

Dear Parent / Legal Guardian / Student:

As the 2021-22 school year begins, we remain committed to the health, well-being and safety of students, educators, school staff and the broader community. Keeping our schools open this year is our collective priority. Vaccines are safe, effective and the best way to protect yourself, your child, and your family from COVID-19. Vaccines help to stop the spread so we can safely and gradually resume more activities.

COVID-19 immunization for students is not mandatory. However, understanding the student immunization status and coverage within classes and schools will better enable public health units to respond if there is an outbreak. Local public health units will be reviewing and assessing students' COVID-19 vaccination information together with class lists to support case, contact and outbreak management within schools. This is only applicable to students eligible to receive the COVID-19 vaccine (i.e., those born in 2009 or earlier).

All information collected by the public health unit will be kept confidential and used only for the purposes described in this letter. Further, these immunization records are being disclosed to local public health units under Section 39(2)(a) of the *Personal Health Information and Privacy Act* (PHIPA) as a disclosure that is made for the purposes of the *Health Protection and Promotion Act* (HPPA).

Public health units may reach out to parents/legal guardians/students, as applicable, if they have questions about a student's immunization status. For example, they may have questions about a particular immunization record (e.g., dose timing), or information that is missing. They can also answer any questions you may have and provide information related to COVID-19 vaccines. It is important that this information is complete and accurate since it will inform public health units in the event of an outbreak.

Please see the attached COVID-19 Information Resources for Parents/Guardians and Youth and the COVID-19 Vaccine FAQs for Parents and Guardians for information about COVID-19 and vaccines. Should you have questions on how to access COVID-19 vaccines for yourself, your child, or your family, please contact your local public health unit 1-844-478-1400

Thank you for your ongoing commitment to keep our students safe.

Ministry of Health

COVID-19: Information Resources of Parents/Guardians and Youth

Version 1.0 – September 23, 2021

The following is a list of resources about COVID-19 disease and vaccination information for parents and youth. Please note that this is non-exhaustive list of COVID-19 Information websites. This list is provided for information purposes only.

The Government of Ontario does not endorse any external websites and is not responsible for their content. The Government of Ontario does not exercise control over the content of any external websites and is not able to confirm that all information is accurate or current. For more information, please contact your local [public health unit](#).

Ministry of Health:

- COVID-19 Vaccine Information Sheet: For Youth (age 12-17)
 - [COVID-19 Vaccine Information Sheet for Youth \(gov.on.ca\)](#)
- COVID-19 Vaccine FAQs For Parents and Guardians (Sept 2021)
- The Safety and Efficacy of COVID-19 Vaccines for Youth, Child and Youth COVID-19 Vaccine Fact Sheet and COVID-19 vaccines for youth
 - <https://covid-19.ontario.ca/covid-19-vaccines-youth>
- COVID-19 communication resources (various COVID-19 resources with links to multiple languages, websites, videos and documents)
 - [COVID-19 communication resources | Ontario.ca](#)
- COVID-19 Vaccination Recommendations for Special Populations
 - https://www.health.gov.on.ca/en/pro/programs/publichealth/coronavirus/docs/vaccine/COVID-19_vaccination_rec_special_populations.pdf
- COVID-19 school and child care screening
 - [COVID-19 school screening \(ontario.ca\)](#)

Public Health Ontario:

- COVID-19 factsheet: What you need to know about mRNA vaccines
 - https://www.publichealthontario.ca//media/documents/ncov/factsheet/2021/01/vac/factsheet-covid-19-vaccines.pdf?sc_lang=en
- At a Glance: Myocarditis and Pericarditis Following COVID19 mRNA Vaccines
 - https://www.publichealthontario.ca/-/media/documents/ncov/vaccines/2021/06/covid-19-mrna-vaccines-myocarditis-pericarditis.pdf?sc_lang=en

Government of Canada Resources:

- Vaccines for children: COVID-19
 - <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/vaccination-children/covid-19.html>
- COVID-19 resources for youth, students and young adults
 - <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/diseases/coronavirus-disease-covid-19/resources-youth-students.html>
- National Advisory Committee on Immunization (NACI)
 - <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/immunization/national-advisory-committee-on-immunization-naci.html>

Other Canadian Resources:

- [COVID-19 learning hub for resources to support your family \(SickKids\)](#)
 - <https://www.aboutkidshealth.ca/COVID-19>
- Canadian Paediatric Society; COVID-19 vaccine for children and youth
 - <https://www.caringforkids.cps.ca/handouts/immunization/covid-19-vaccine-for-children>
- Vaccination Pain Management, CARD System Learning Hub
 - [CARD System Learning Hub \(aboutkidshealth.ca\)](#)