

May 27, 2021

Eligible Youth and their Parents/Guardians attending KFL&A Schools Encouraged to Book Appointment at Upcoming COVID-19 Vaccination Clinics for Youth

Dear Students and Families,

Youth aged 12 and older are now eligible to receive COVID-19 vaccination in Ontario. To ensure eligible youth have access to vaccines as soon as possible, KFL&A Public Health will be offering special youth vaccination clinics beginning the week of June 7 and continuing to June 28.

Vaccination clinics have been planned in different locations across the KFL&A region to ensure we reach eligible youth and their families and to provide clinic appointments at locations that are closest to them geographically, to increase access. We are accessing our existing mass immunization clinics in Kingston and Napanee. These clinics will be open to all eligible youth attending schools in Kingston, Frontenac, and Lennox & Addington counties and their families.

The Youth and Family Vaccination Clinics will offer the Pfizer vaccine, which is currently the only COVID-19 vaccine that has been authorized by Health Canada for use in individuals aged 12 to 17 years of age. The second dose interval for youth will be shortened to 56 days, and these clinics will run from August 9 to August 22. Appointments for the second dose will be arranged at your first clinic appointment.

How to book a first dose appointment at Youth and Family Vaccination Clinics

- To make a vaccination appointment, please use the link provided in this letter.
- Youth clinics will be held beginning on June 8 to June 28.
- **Please note you will need to be 12 years of age at the time of the appointment.**
- Appointments are for parents/guardians as well as the youth and the link can accommodate different booking options. For example, youth only (if both parents/guardians are already immunized) or a parent/guardian with multiple eligible youth.

KFL&A Public Health will monitor vaccine clinic appointments as well as the vaccine supply. Appointments and sites will be added to clinic schedules when the vaccine supply allows, so please check the clinic booking links often.

Youth and Family Vaccination Clinic: Appointment booking instructions and Link

1. Book a First Dose COVID-19 vaccine appointment.
2. Book one appointment for youth and add appointments for family members into available time slots.
3. Please use this link <https://cutt.ly/school-age> to book your appointment at the Mass Immunization Clinics (MICs) at these locations.
 - Strathcona Paper Centre (SPC) – 16 McPherson Drive, Napanee
 - Kingston INVISTA Centre – 1350 Gardiners Road, Kingston
 - Kingston Memorial Centre – 303 York Street, Kingston
4. Read and review the forms in the booking confirmation email carefully.
5. To make informed decisions about getting vaccinated, please review the COVID-19 vaccine information provided in the links below. Please review the consent form as informed consent will be requested when booking an appointment electronically, as well as at the time of vaccination. **You do not need to bring a paper copy of the consent form to your appointment.**
 - [COVID-19 Vaccine Information Sheet: For Youth \(Age 12-17\)](#): Vaccine information for youth receiving the Pfizer BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine.
 - [What Youth Need to Know About their Appointment](#): Provides information for youth on how to prepare for an upcoming COVID-19 vaccination appointment and what to do after receiving the vaccine.
 - [COVID-19 Vaccine Youth \(Age 12-17\) Consent Form](#): A paper copy of the form used by health care providers to document consent from youth and/or their parent/legal guardian for the COVID-19 vaccination.
6. If you are unable to book online, please contact KFL&A Public Health at 343-477-0172 between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m.

What if I am not comfortable in a clinic setting, getting needles, or I cannot attend these clinics?

We know that some students may not be comfortable in a mass clinic setting, or may have some worries about getting needles. If you or your child has special needs or concerns, please contact KFL&A Public Health at 343-477-0172 between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. The team at KFL&A Public Health will do their best to make accommodations, if possible and help ease any worries.

Why is vaccination against COVID-19 so important?

Getting vaccinated will help keep you as safe as possible. Children and youth who get infected with COVID-19 typically experience mild symptoms. However, some can get very sick and require hospitalization. Like adults, children and youth with the virus can transmit it to others, even if they don't feel sick. Protecting yourself through vaccination will help limit the spread of COVID-19 to others, which helps keep your family, schools, and community as safe as possible.

All vaccines work by presenting our body with something that looks like the infection so that our immune system can learn how to produce its own natural protection. This natural protection then helps to prevent illness if you come into contact with the COVID-19 virus in the future. You cannot get COVID-19 from the vaccine.

How will vaccines help keep schools as safe as possible?

Infection prevention protocols have helped keep the risk spread of COVID-19 within the school setting low in our region. Getting vaccinated will help reduce the risk even more. The province has made a commitment to provide second doses to eligible youth before the end of the summer, which will help keep you as safe as possible.

Please visit kflaph.ca/Vaccine for more vaccine information. We look forward to seeing you at our upcoming vaccination clinics!

KFL&A Public Health