

February 8, 2022

Dear Families:

**Re: Access to COVID-19 Vaccine Clinics for Children 5 to 11 Years of Age**

KFL&A Public Health acknowledges that the past two years have been difficult for families, and we recognize the many challenges that COVID-19 has created. We want to thank you for your ongoing support and partnership in helping to keep schools open and safe for in-person learning.

Children aged 5 to 11 years are eligible to receive their COVID-19 vaccination. The COVID-19 vaccine adds another layer of protection. COVID-19 vaccines are safe for children and youth and decrease the risk of getting COVID-19 and developing severe illness. It is also important for the protection of our youngest children (0 to 4 years of age), who are not yet eligible for vaccine protection. Children cannot get COVID-19 from the vaccine.

To ensure eligible children aged 5 to 11 years have access to vaccines as soon as possible, there are many ways to access a COVID-19 vaccine clinic in the KFL&A region.

1. **School clinics after school hours** – Vaccine clinics are offered in some schools, after school hours with parents present. Visit the vaccine page on KFL&A Public Health’s website at [kflaph.ca/Vaccine](https://kflaph.ca/Vaccine) for a list of upcoming school clinics. More after school locations are added based on demand.
2. **Community COVID-19 clinics** – Vaccine clinics are offered in several locations across the KFL&A region. Visit the vaccine page on KFL&A Public Health’s website at [kflaph.ca/Vaccine](https://kflaph.ca/Vaccine) for a list of community clinics. Walk-ins are welcome at these clinics.
3. **Mobile COVID-19 clinics** – Vaccine clinics are offered in several locations across the KFL&A region. Visit the vaccine page on KFL&A Public Health’s website at [kflaph.ca/Vaccine](https://kflaph.ca/Vaccine) for a list of upcoming mobile clinics. Walk-ins are welcome at these clinics.
4. Call your **local health care provider** and make an appointment. Many health care providers are delivering the COVID-19 vaccine in their office.
5. Visit your **local pharmacy**. Visit the vaccine page on KFL&A Public Health’s website at [kflaph.ca/Vaccine](https://kflaph.ca/Vaccine) for a list of pharmacy clinics.

If you are having difficulty booking a clinic appointment, **please call 613-549-1232 and follow directions to the call centre.**

**If you would like your child immunized and none of the options above work for your family, please complete the attached consent form and send it back to the school in a sealed envelope, by Wednesday February 16, 2022.**

**COVID-19 Vaccine Children/Youth (Age (5-17) Consent Form**

KFL&A Public Health staff will review the form and contact you directly to see how we can support you in accessing the COVID-19 vaccine for your child(ren). All consent forms will be kept confidential.

If you have questions about the COVID-19 vaccine, please review the information provided in the links below to ensure that you are making an informed decision.

If you have questions or concerns, contact your Health Care Provider or KFL&A Public Health Vaccine Program at 613-549-1232, ext. 1451.

- **COVID-19 Vaccine Children/Youth (Age 5 to 17 Years) Consent Form**
- **COVID-19 Vaccine Information Sheet: For Children (Aged 5 to 11 Years)**
- **What you Need to Know about your COVID-19 Vaccine Appointment**
- **COVID-19 Vaccines for Child and Youth**
- **COVID-19 Vaccine Consult Service**

Children under the age of 18 years who cannot receive immunizations safely at their doctor's office, immunization clinic, or pharmacy due to anxiety disorders, needle phobia, or developmental and behavioural disorders can receive their immunizations at a specialized immunization clinic at Children's Outpatient Clinic at Hotel Dieu Hospital. These clinics require referral by a health care provider or community agency.

We look forward to seeing you at our upcoming after-school, community, or mobile vaccination clinic.

KFL&A Public Health

## Frequently Asked Questions



### Which vaccine will my child receive?

The after-school vaccination clinics for 5 to 11 years of age will offer the Pediatric Pfizer vaccine, which is currently the only COVID-19 vaccine that has been authorized for this age group by Health Canada.



### 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 may experience mild symptoms. However, some can get extremely sick and require hospitalization. Recent data shows that in children, 2 doses of the vaccine are over 98% protective against severe COVID-19 symptoms. The vaccine also gives 94% protection against being admitted into the hospital ICU.

Like adults, children and youth with the virus can spread it to others, even if they do not feel sick. Protecting children through vaccination will help limit the spread of COVID-19 to others, which helps keep your family, schools, and community as safe as possible.



### Are children naturally protected if they have already had COVID-19?

Natural immunity does not last long and there is a chance that your child will be exposed to the virus again. It is hard to predict who will have severe consequences even if they have already had COVID-19. Of all the vaccine preventable diseases we have right now, the highest risk of infection is COVID-19. The safest situation is to have the vaccine because we know that it is helping children stay out of the hospital.



### How will vaccines help keep schools as safe as possible?

Infection prevention protocols have helped keep the risk of spread of COVID-19 within the school setting low in our region. Getting vaccinated will help reduce the risk even more.



### What if I am not comfortable in a clinic setting, getting needles?

We make every effort to ensure that our clinics are safe, supportive, and welcoming but we know that some students will still feel uncomfortable getting needles. If you, or your child have any concerns, please let us know when you arrive at the clinic so we can best support you and your child.