

January 17, 2022

Memorandum to: Directors of Education
Secretary/Treasurers of School Authorities

Local Medical Officers of Health

From: Julia Danos
Executive Lead, Reopening Secretariat

Tim Lewis
Assistant Deputy Minister, Vaccine Strategy,
Implementation and Performance

Subject: **School Vaccination Clinics for Pediatric Vaccination**

Thank you for your ongoing partnership and continued efforts to date in supporting vaccination efforts for children and youth.

Vaccination continues to represent the most effective strategy to protect Ontarians from COVID-19, with the vaccination of school staff and eligible students a critical component of ensuring schools remain safe and open for in-person learning. It is also important for the protection of our youngest children (0-4) years, who are not yet eligible for vaccine protection. To date, over 540,000 children aged 5-11, or over 50% of this cohort, have received their first COVID 19 vaccination.

To support greater uptake of vaccination for this population, and to support the delivery of second doses as the eight week interval will soon be reached for many children, the province is asking school boards and local public health units (PHU) to continue to work together to prioritize vaccine clinics that are targeted towards this population.

On January 12, in the context of announcing the reopening of schools on January 17, the province announced that Ontario will support a dual approach of in-school clinics during school hours, along with vaccination opportunities outside of school hours.

Any vaccination that may take place during the school day will require a consent form signed by the student's parent in advance. A copy of the provincial consent form for children and aged 5-11 is attached to this memo.

Public health units and school boards are asked to work together to identify schools that may be candidates for school day clinics. School boards are asked to distribute and collect consent forms for in school clinics to families in these schools where in school clinics will be held to support planning for the appropriate number of participating students.

Planning should take into consideration community vaccination rates and schools that rely heavily on student transportation as in-school clinics may provide accessible and welcoming opportunities for students to receive their vaccine during the school day.

Public health units and their partners will continue to offer all possible options for pediatric vaccination, including mass clinics, primary care and pharmacies.

School boards are asked to promote all vaccination options to their students and families, through email and social media channels. Strong support for in school vaccination by the principal is a key success factor for these clinics, and all principals are encouraged to engage actively if a clinic is planned for their school.

Over the coming weeks, PHUs and school boards have **already scheduled clinics** after school hours and on weekends at schools. We ask that school boards and schools actively promote these clinics to student, staff and families in the area, including information and resources on consent.

Consent Forms

It is recommended that a letter be provided by the principal of any school selected for a school day clinic, to convey the consent form and all key information about the upcoming clinic.

Letters provided to parents must inform parents that **by completing and returning the form they are consenting to having their children vaccinated during the day without the parent/guardian being present.** If children have vaccination appointments scheduled within 1-2 weeks, it is recommended that these appointments not be cancelled.

Parents and caregivers who have questions about COVID-19 vaccines for children and youth can visit [Vaccine Information Sheet for Children](#) for further information or [COVID-19 Vaccine Consult Service](#) to book a confidential phone appointment with a SickKids clinician.

A sample letter for principals is attached to this memo.

School Based Vaccination Clinics

PHUs and school boards are asked to work together to maintain a common calendar of all vaccination opportunities available for 5-11 year olds over the coming weeks. This calendar should be promoted widely to school communities and to the public.

Thank you for your ongoing partnership as we work to support vaccination efforts and keep our schools safe and open to in-person learning.

Sincerely,

Julia Danos
Executive Lead
Reopening Secretariat
Ministry of Education

Tim Lewis
Assistant Deputy Minister
Vaccine Strategy, Implementation & Performance
Ministry of Health

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- General Secretary, Elementary Teachers' Federation of Ontario (ETFO)
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