

Monday, February 7, 2022

Dear Families,

Thank you for your ongoing support and partnership in helping us to keep our school open and safe for in-person learning. Toward this effort we are pleased to be able to invite you to participate in vaccination clinics for our students and their families.

The Ontario Chief Medical Officer of Health, and all local Medical Officers of Health, confirm that vaccines are safe and continue to represent the most effective strategy to protect Ontarians from COVID-19. It is also important for the protection of our youngest children (0-4 years), who are not yet eligible for vaccine protection.

There are many convenient options now available for parents/guardians to have their children vaccinated for COVID-19.

1. **In-school elementary clinics:** Immunizations for individual students with consent at school, and during the school day. A consent form is required. No child aged 5-11 will be vaccinated in a school day clinic without parental consent. Parents are encouraged to join their children at the school on the date/time of the vaccine. **Parents/guardians who wish to have their child vaccinated are asked to read, sign and complete the attached COVID-19 vaccine consent form and return it to the school by Thursday, February 10, 2022. Please feel free to return consent in an envelope to protect your privacy.** Parents/guardians will be informed a day and time when the vaccine will occur at the school.
2. **After-hours school clinics:** Find a school clinic after school day hours listing at <https://hwdsb.info/Vaccines>. Parents/guardians will be notified via School Messenger of any voluntary school-based COVID-19 vaccine clinic that is offered at, or open to their child's school. Consent will happen at the clinic.
3. **Hamilton Health Partners, mass or mobile vaccine clinics:** COVID-19 vaccination clinics throughout the city of Hamilton. For clinic locations, eligibility and hours of operations, visit www.hamilton.ca/GetYourVaccine.

Please keep your appointment if your child is already scheduled to receive a vaccine within the next 1-2 weeks.

Parents/guardians with questions can contact Hamilton Public Health Services at COVID-19 Vaccines by phone, 905-974-9848, option 7 or by email, phscovidvaccine@hamilton.ca.

Preparing Your Child for Vaccination

While COVID-19 vaccinations are safe, we understand you or your child may have questions about the vaccine. Please speak to your child about the many benefits of being vaccinated against COVID-19. If your child has a fear of vaccination, please visit your local Public Health Unit for additional resources.

A full list of clinic locations, hours, booking details and participating pharmacies is available by visiting www.hamilton.ca/GetYourVaccine.

If you have questions about COVID-19 vaccines for children and youth please visit [Vaccine Information Sheet for Children](https://hwdsb.info/COVID19InfoSheet) (https://hwdsb.info/COVID19InfoSheet) for further information or [COVID-19 Vaccine Consult Service](https://hwdsb.info/VaccineConsultService) (https://hwdsb.info/VaccineConsultService) to book a confidential phone appointment with a SickKids clinician.