

Flu season is upon us - where to get vaccinated in Halton Region

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It's that time of year again - flu season.

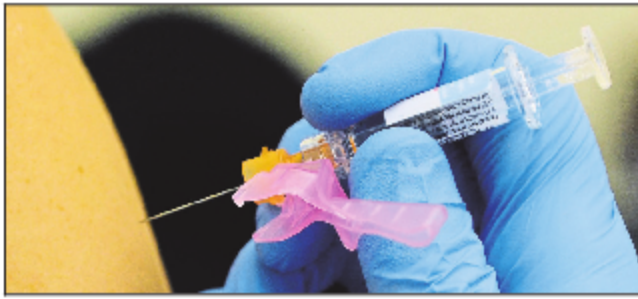
Halton Region is encouraging residents, especially those with weak or compromised immune systems, to take advantage of the free annual flu shot.

According to the region, flu shots are available free of charge at more than 100 pharmacies across Halton, as well as at doctor's offices, walk-in clinics and some workplaces.

The region provides a search tool on its website for residents to locate the nearest vaccination site.

Those aged five or older are able to receive the vaccination at pharmacies, doctor's offices and walk-in clinics. However, those under the age of five must have the flu shot administered by a doctor.

"We know that sometimes it can be challenging for families with young children to attend their doctor's office. Since children under five years of age cannot get the flu vaccine from a pharmacist, this year we're hosting five ap-



Colin McConnell/Torstar file

UHalton Region provides residents with online search tool to find closest flu vaccination sites.

pointment-based family flu clinics for families with young children between the ages of six months and five years of age," said Halton Region's acting medical officer of health, Dr. Daniela Kempkens, in a release.

"Families can register for an appointment at halton.ca/flu or by calling 311," she added.

According to the region, most healthy people who contract the flu will recover within a few days. However, the flu can lead to pneumonia and hospitalization - even death, especially in the elderly, kids under five and those with chronic health conditions.

"To protect themselves

and our community, people can take everyday precautions against influenza by washing their hands with soap frequently, using an alcohol-based hand sanitizer (when soap and water are not available), and avoiding touching their eyes, nose and mouth, in addition to getting the flu vaccine. Those who are sick should stay home from work or school to prevent spreading the illness to others and see a doctor if the illness gets worse or doesn't begin to improve after a few days," added the region in its release.

Visit halton.ca/flu for more information and to access the vaccination site search tool.

POLICE AND FIRE

Georgetown man facing several charges in dump truck crash

Halton Regional Police laid several Highway Traffic Act charges against a 40-year-old male from Georgetown after a loaded dump truck barrelled through a busy intersection and crashed into a ravine.

Nobody was injured and no pedestrians or other vehicles were involved in the incident, which occurred Sunday, Oct. 21, just after noon at Maple Avenue and Main Street South in downtown Georgetown.

The dump truck was travelling east-bound on Maple when the driver lost control, police said, and left the roadway, hitting several trees before entering a ravine on the southeast corner of the intersection at the entrance to Cedarvale Park.

Several witnesses were at the scene and took pictures as the driver and his passenger fled the area.

As police were investigating, the regis-

tered owner of the truck arrived and initially indicated that the vehicle was not supposed to be on the road.

The owner reviewed photos taken at the time of the incident and confirmed that the truck's occupants were his employees, who later returned to the scene.

A background investigation revealed that the driver was subject to arrest warrants in Newfoundland in 2004 and a more recent warrant last month in Milton for assault, assault with a weapon, weapons dangerous and uttering threats.

The driver was arrested and was slated for a bail hearing earlier this week in Milton Criminal Court.

Charged with 10 HTA offences, including failing to remain and failing to report an accident, driving a commercial vehicle with an improper licence and having no cover on its load is Keith Furlong.



Major study finds untreated hearing loss linked to dementia

Although the reason for the link is as yet unclear, a recent Johns Hopkins and National Institute on Aging study shows that seniors with hearing loss are significantly more likely to develop dementia over time than those with normal hearing. Researchers say these findings "could lead to new ways to combat dementia, a condition that affects millions of people worldwide and carries heavy societal burdens."

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- **Brampton North** | 108-2250 Bovaird Drive East | Call Deb at 1-877-215-5342
- **Burlington** | 1435 Plains Road East | Call Julie or Diane at 1-877-215-7028
- **Etobicoke (Sherway)** | 405-190 Sherway Drive | Call Michele at 1-877-201-6390
- **Georgetown** | 324 Guelph Street | Call Fanny at 1-877-212-4194
- **Milton** | 15 Martin Street | Call Sara at 1-877-212-1061
- **Mississauga Central** | 102-101 Queensway West | Call Gorana at 1-877-207-8631
- **Mississauga Clarkson Village** | 1865 Lakeshore Road West | Call Anna at 1-877-207-9633
- **Mississauga King** | 71 King Street West | Call Katarina at 1-877-207-9712
- **Mississauga Streetsville** | 217 Queen Street South | Call Josephine at 1-877-216-5705
- **Mississauga West** | 1140 Burnhamthorpe West | Call Maritza at 1-877-216-7756
- **Oakville** | 117 Lakeshore Road West | Call Helen at 1-877-203-3677
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