Metroland file photo

Plans are in place to have youth aged 12 to 17 fully vaccinated by the end of August.

VACCINE BOOKINGS FOR YOUTH TO OPEN BY END OF MAY

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Halton Public Health plans to start scheduling 12- to 17-year-olds for COVID-19 vaccine appointments at the end of the month.

While the province announced Saturday (May 22) that this youth age group can begin making vaccine appointments this weekend through the Ontario booking system, local health officials say that won't be the case in Halton.

"Instead, we expect to be able to open up clinic bookings for Halton residents 12 to 17 years of age on Monday, May 31," said Halton Medical Officer of Health Dr. Hamidah Meghani in a letter to parents distributed by the local school boards.

"We understand that you are eager for youth to be vaccinated. Given current vaccine supply, clinics are already booked for the remainder of May. An earlier opportunity to book clinic appointments would not mean earlier clinic appointment dates. As always, our program and ability to open appointments to more eligible groups is dependent on vaccine supply."

The letter notes that local residents must book their appointments through the Region's online system, rather than the province's, to receive their vaccine at a Halton clinic.

Meghani said Halton remains committed to following provincial direction to offer first doses to 12- to 17-year-olds in June, and second doses by the end of August.

"We will continue to work together with local school boards to provide the best possible program for youth and will provide more details on the program next week," she said.

For more information, visit halton.ca/COVIDvaccines.

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