



Graham Paine/Metroland

Some Halton clinics will soon be used for non-COVID vaccines in youth as part of the school immunization program.

SEVERAL CHANGES COMING FOR COVID-19 VACCINE CLINICS

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Plans are in the works to consolidate some of Halton's COVID-19 community vaccination clinics by the end of the summer, and begin using some locations for non-COVID inoculations in youth.

Halton Public Health recently announced impending change, along with further details on the planned closures of the vaccine clinics at Oakville Trafalgar Memorial Hospital and Joseph Brant Hospital as of August 16.

According to a press release from the Region, now that more local residents are fully vaccinated, Halton "will begin consolidating its community clinics in August to focus on targeted community outreach and school-based immunization programs."

Health officials plan to

transition several clinic locations to ones that offer non-COVID vaccines to students in grades 7, 8 and 9 as part of the school immunization program.

"This will provide Halton with an opportunity to catch up eligible students who were not able to get vaccinated with these important vaccines due to the pandemic," notes the release.

As for the hospital clinic closures, residents who had vaccine appointments scheduled at those locations on or after August 16 are being notified that their appointments are cancelled, with options to reschedule at another Halton clinic, pharmacy or primary care provider.

"I am grateful for our hospital partners who have been instrumental in the Halton vaccine rollout and provided high-quality care to our community throughout the COVID-19

pandemic," said Halton Medical Officer of Health Dr. Hamidah Meghani.

"While this is an important step to return to normal, it's critical that more residents get fully vaccinated as soon as possible to protect themselves and our community. Each and every dose counts, and getting your second dose will give you better protection against COVID-19 and the Delta variant."

Halton Healthcare president and CEO Denise Hardenne said by August 15, it's expected that 200,000 vaccines will have been administered at the Oakville hospital clinic.

Meanwhile, over 58,000 vaccinations have been given at the Joseph Brant clinic since opening in March, said hospital president and CEO Eric Vandewall.

For further details and to access the online vaccine booking system, visit halton.ca/COVIDvaccines.

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