

# COVID-19 VACCINE APPOINTMENTS NOW OPEN TO KIDS

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First-dose COVID-19 vaccine appointments for kids aged five to 11 (or turning five in 2021) can now be booked through Halton's online system (one.halton.ca/vab/s/).

The vaccine is being offered at a recommended eight-week interval between first and second doses. Appointments are now available at child-friendly pediatric clinics across the region and at the four existing community clinics.

Parents can also choose



Region of Peel photo

Pediatric clinics for COVID-19 vaccinations are now open throughout Halton.

to take their children to a doctor's office or pharmacy that's signed up to partici-

pate in the vaccination effort.

"The availability of a

COVID-19 vaccine for younger children marks a major milestone in our response to COVID-19," said Halton Medical Officer of Health Dr. Hamidah Meghani.

"The vaccine has been through rigorous and independent scientific reviews, and the evidence shows that the vaccine is very safe and highly effective in preventing COVID-19 among this age group.

"As your medical officer of health and mother of a young child, I am very excited for this moment and look forward to seeing our 'Halton Heroes' roll up their sleeves and get vacci-

nated."

The pediatric clinics are located at 180 Market Dr. in Milton, 3450 Harvester Rd. in Burlington and 240 Wycroft Rd. in Oakville and . The location of the Halton Hills clinic will be confirmed in the coming weeks.

Halton Public Health says appointments are dependent on pediatric vaccine supply and will be added to the booking system as supply is confirmed.

Second doses will be available to book at a date closer to the recommended eight-week interval.

To help children pre-

pare for vaccination, Halton Region has launched its "Halton Heroes" campaign with family-friendly characters and resources. The superhero-themed undertaking is designed to help children who may be anxious about needles and give parents new tools to talk with their kids about COVID-19 and vaccines.

For further details, visit [halton.ca/COVIDvaccines4kids](http://halton.ca/COVIDvaccines4kids).



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# EXPANDED ACCESS FOR THIRD DOSES OF COVID-19 VACCINE COMING

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The Ontario government anticipates moving up the timetable to make third doses of the COVID-19 vaccine available to more people.

The eligibility for expanding access for more groups was anticipated to take place in the new year, but Ontario's chief medical officer of health said that will likely come sooner.

"You can anticipate the government will be making a decision on improving access for third doses in the coming weeks," Dr. Kieran Moore said at a briefing Nov. 25.

Those currently eligible for third doses include:

- anyone over the age of 70

- health-care workers and designated essential-care workers in congregate settings

- people who received two doses of Astra Zeneca vaccine or one dose of the Janssen vaccine

- First Nation, Inuit and Métis adults and non-Indigenous members of their household

Moore said the booster shots have been very effective in limiting outbreaks

in long-term care and retirement homes.

"We're seeing great protection in those environments," he said.

Moore explained with third doses and the recent roll out of COVID-19 vaccines for children ages five to 11, there is currently a greater demand on the system, so the province will strive to ensure it is able to handle an expanded criteria for boosters before making the announcement.

"They are also delivering influenza vaccines, so there is a fair bit of pressure and fair demand on

the system at present," he said. "We will review the science, the capacity of the system and our number one priority now are those groups currently eligible for third doses and children five to 11 to ensure they get access rapidly and quickly."

With COVID-19 cases numbers rising in Ontario, Moore was asked about making rapid test kits available to students before the upcoming holiday break. He said vaccination will help curb the spread of the virus in schools.

"The vaccine is very powerful at preventing in-



YouTube screen capture  
Dr. Kieran Moore, Ontario's Chief Medical Officer of Health, provides an update at his weekly briefing at Queen's Park.

fection, around 90.7 per cent against symptomatic COVID infection," said Moore. "That should limit the spread in the home set-

ting to vulnerable members of your family, in the school setting or the social setting. I do hope all parents consider getting their child vaccinated."

Moore said tests could be provided earlier "in any region that is experiencing increasing activity based on rising risk and an increasing number of cases."

Ontario's chief medical officer of health also said there are no plans to include children under the age 12 in the requirements to be fully vaccinated in order to go to restaurants or other public places where restrictions are in place.



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