

# BOOKINGS OPEN FOR COVID-19 BOOSTERS FOR CHILDREN 5 TO 11

Appointments for children aged five to 11 years old, who are now eligible for a first booster of the COVID-19 vaccine, can now be booked.

Following provincial guidelines, parents and guardians can book an appointment at one of the pediatric clinics across the region through Halton's online booking system. There are no walk-ins.

It is recommended that 5- to 11-year-olds get their first booster six months or 168 days after completing their primary series. Children who are immunocompromised and received a three-dose primary series are recommended to receive their first booster six months or 168 days after their third dose of the primary series.

Residents should check Halton's Vaccine Clinics

webpage at halton.ca regularly, as dates and locations may change from week to week. Additional appointments are added regularly. Appointments are also available through the provincial booking system, participating primary care providers and pharmacies.

"The availability of COVID-19 booster doses for children 5-11 years of age is an important layer of protection, especially as children head back to school and participate in more indoor activities," said Dr. Hamidah Meghani, Halton Region's medical officer of health. "I encourage parents and guardians to ensure your child is up to date with all vaccine doses they are eligible for."

Parents and guardians with questions are encouraged to speak with their

health care provider or contact the COVID-19 Vaccine Consult Service offered through SickKids. Information on the safety and efficacy of the vaccine should be accessed from reliable and accurate resources. For information on the COVID-19 vaccine and links to reputable resources, visit halton.ca/COVIDvaccines4kids.

Here is more useful information about the COVID-19 vaccine from Halton's health department:

- Pediatric COVID-19 vaccines for children aged six months to 11 years are offered by appointment only (no walk-ins) at Halton pediatric clinics.

- Appointments to receive pediatric COVID-19 vaccines are also available through the provincial booking system, and on a limited basis at participat-



Metroland file photo

Appointments are now being taken for COVID-19 boosters for children 5 to 11.

ing primary care and pediatric offices, as well as at participating pharmacies.

- Vaccination is recommended for children who have had a previous COVID-19 infection. Children will have some natural immunity, but their protection is strengthened with vaccination.

- Residents who require assistance can call 311 to book their appointment. Please only call if you require immediate booking support or do not have internet access.

- Residents requiring additional assistance, language supports or other accommodations at a com-

munity clinic can contact 311 prior to their appointment to arrange for supports.

- Transportation services to and from appointments are available, free of charge, for those who require it and parking is free at all clinic locations.

- To prepare for an appointment, you are asked to complete the COVID-19 self-assessment before arriving at the clinic; bring your child's health card; wear a mask; for children attending a clinic with an adult who is not their parent or guardian, bring the completed informed consent form; and learn more about how to prepare for vaccination by exploring the activities from Halton Heroes.

For more information, visit halton.ca/COVIDvaccines4kids.



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