COVID-19 Briefing Webinar

Webinar 13 in the COVID-19 Briefing Series November 29, 2021 - 12:15 p.m. to 1 p.m.

Dr. JoAnne Fernandes, MD, MPH, CCFP, FRCPC
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THIS MEETING WILL BE RECORDED

Please note this meeting will be recorded.

- During this meeting, you will have the opportunity to contribute or ask questions
- Questions will be gathered and sorted to avoid duplication and ensure the best response
- Although your name will not appear on the screen to attendees, producers and presenters may have access to that information
- If you have questions about the recording of this webinar, please contact HEOCLiaison@york.ca

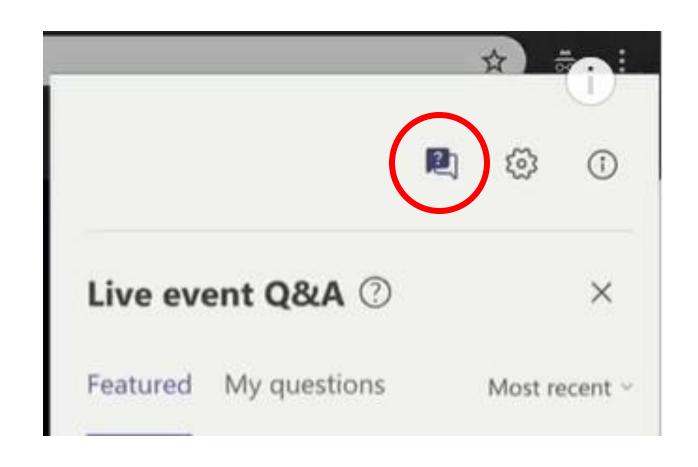
DO YOU HAVE A QUESTION?

To ask a question:

Select **Q&A** on the right side of the screen.

Type your question in the compose box, and then select **Send**.

Questions will be screened by the moderator and posed to the presenters.



PLEASE FILL OUT OUR FEEDBACK SURVEY

Link to the survey provided in the chat box



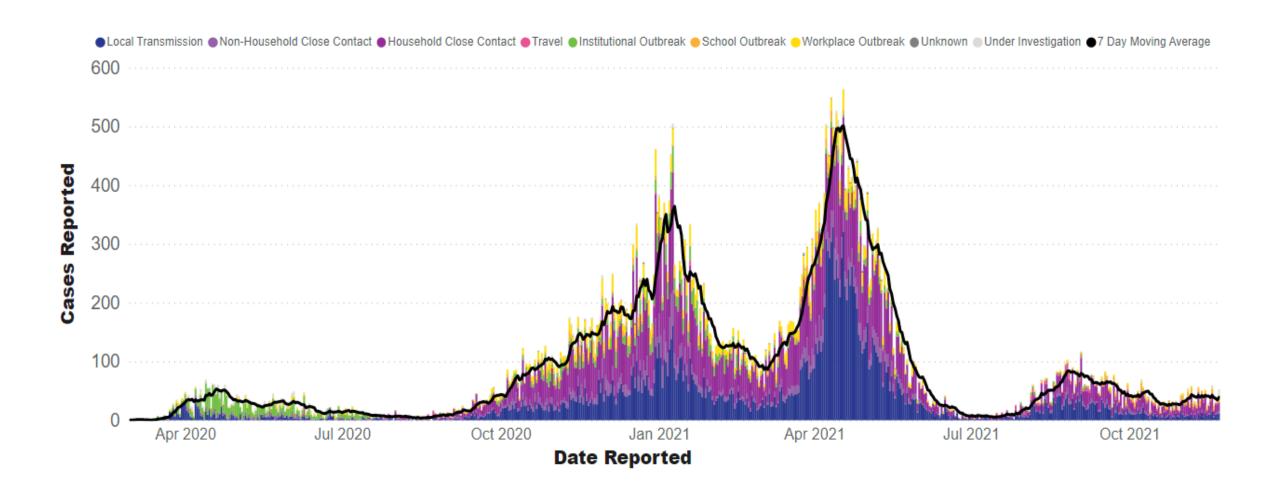
COVID-19 Briefing Survey Feedback (November 2021)	
1. What type of health care provider are you?	
Allied Health	
Oentist / Dental Worker	
Nurse	
Pharmacist	
Physician - Primary Care	
Physician - Specialty	
Other	

AGENDA

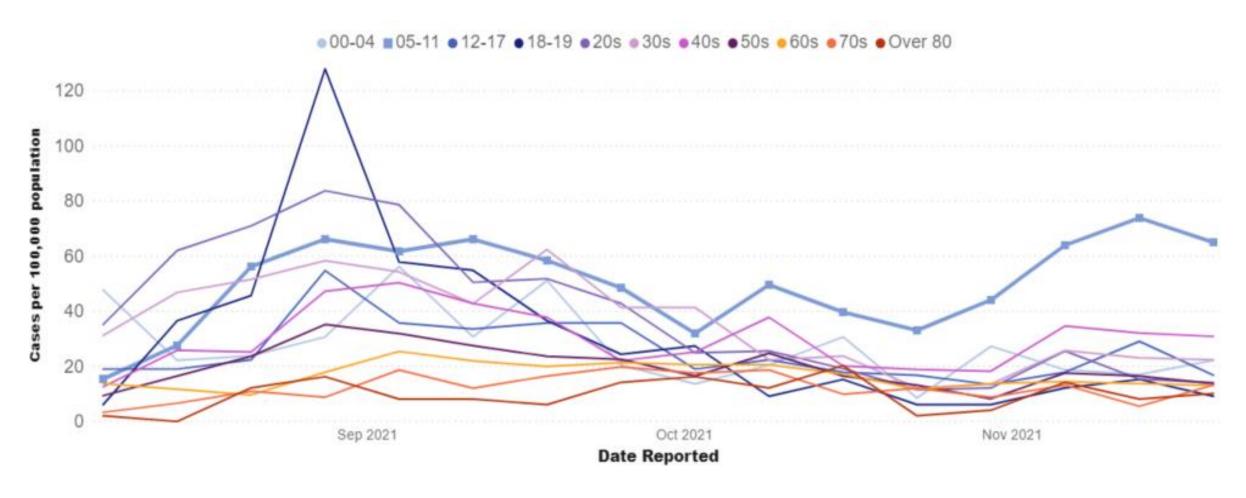
- 1. Epidemiological Updates
- 2. Local and Provincial Policy/Guidance Updates
 - Vaccine Certificate and Capacity Limits
 - York Region Workplace vaccination policies
 - LOI for sports organizations (12-18)
- 3. School Updates
 - School and Childcare Screening Tool
 - Testing Modalities for Schools (Take home PCR test, Test to Stay, Asymptomatic screening)
- 4. Vaccine and Related Updates
 - 5-11 vaccinations
 - Updated Provincial recommendations for COVID-19 boosters
 - COVID-19 for breastfeeding and pregnant individuals
 - Myth busting videos
 - Co-administration with COVID-19 vaccine
 - Routine School Immunization Program for Grades 7 to 12

EPIDEMIOLOGY UPDATES

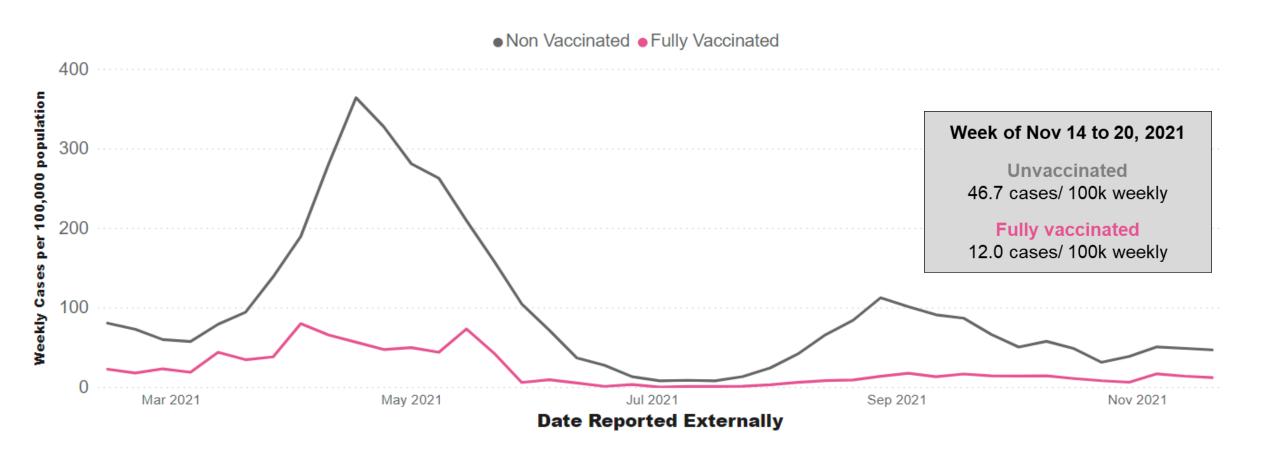
YORK REGION CASE COUNTS



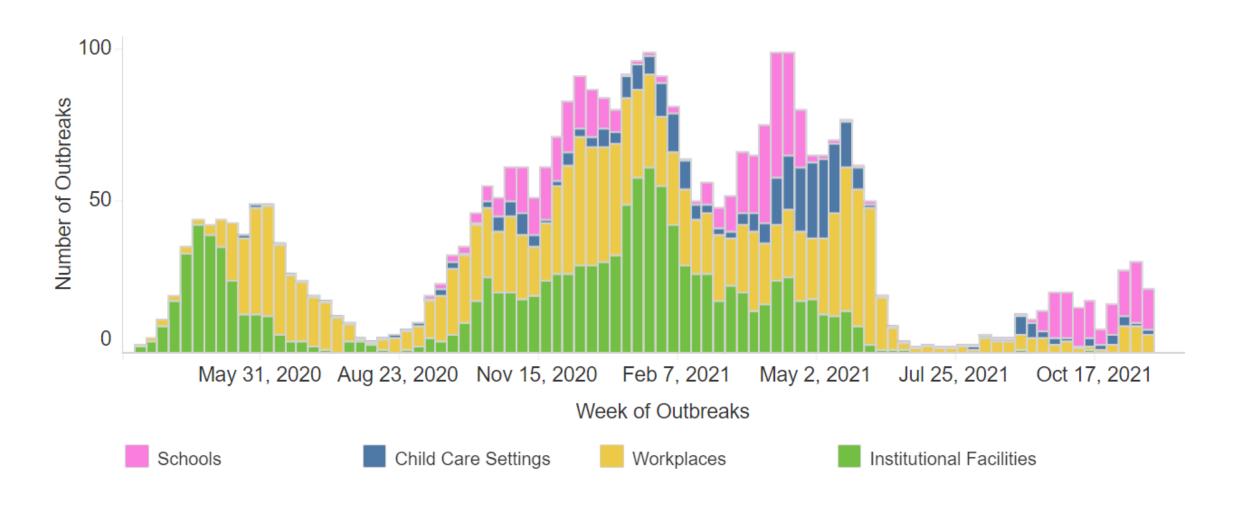
YORK REGION 5 TO 11 YEAR OLDS HAVE THE GREATEST RISK OF INFECTION



RISK OF INFECTION IS HIGHER AMONG UNVACCINATED INDIVIDUALS



MOST OUTBREAKS IN YORK REGION ARE CURRENTLY IN SCHOOL SETTINGS



PROVINCIAL AND LOCAL POLICY AND GUIDANCE UPDATES

PROVINCIAL GUIDANCE UPDATES

- Fully Immunized and Previously Positive Individuals
 - Asymptomatic individuals, who are fully vaccinated, with high-risk exposures are now recommended to remain more cautious for 10-days following potential exposure
- Primary Care Providers in a Community Setting
 - Guidance on transition back to in-person appointments
 - Recommendation for providers to implement staff vaccination policies within practices
 - HCWs who are not fully vaccinated and returning from international travel are now strongly recommended to quarantine for 10 days
- Provincial Testing Guidance Update
 - Serology testing is now advised to be used to inform treatment decisions for monoclonal antibody treatment for patients

CELEBRATE SAFELY THIS HOLIDAY SEASON

Virtual gatherings or events are the safest way to celebrate, especially if people in the group are unvaccinated or if their vaccination status is unknown. Encourage full vaccination and booster for those eligible!

Indoor social gatherings

- do not exceed the indoor social gathering limit of 25 people
- with people from multiple households who are unvaccinated, partially vaccinated or status is unknown, you should wear a face covering and physically distance

Outdoor social gatherings

- do not exceed the outdoor social gathering limit of 100 people
- wear a face covering if required, or if physical distancing cannot be maintained and the vaccination status of individuals in attendance is unknown
- while outdoor settings are safer than indoor ones, the risk of COVID-19 transmission is not eliminated

Regardless of the setting, you can wear a face covering and physically distance if you feel it is right for you, especially if you or others are immunocompromised or at high-risk* of severe disease and/or exposure to COVID-19.

Stay home if you are sick, even if your symptoms are mild and get tested if you have symptoms of COVID-19!



(Ministry of Health)

VACCINE CERTIFICATE AND CAPACITY LIMITS

- As of October 25, capacity and physical distancing limits were lifted in certain settings where proof of vaccination is required
 - Settings include: restaurants, bars, casinos, indoor meeting & event spaces, etc.
- Other settings also permitted to lift capacity limits and physical distancing requirements <u>IF</u> they choose to require proof of vaccination
 - Businesses and organizations can choose to:
 - 1. Require patrons to show proof of vaccination in order to lift all capacity and physical distancing requirements in their settings, OR
 - 2. Not require patrons to show proof of vaccination and continue to operate with their current Step 3 capacity and physical distancing limits
- As of November 10, Ontario announced that it will be pausing the lifting of capacity limits in remaining higher-risk settings as outlined in <u>A Plan to Safely Reopen Ontario and Manage</u> <u>COVID-19 for the Long-Term</u>

YORK REGION LETTER OF INSTRUCTION FOR SPORTS ORGANIZATIONS

As of November 13, 2021, all owners/operators of Faculties located in the Regional Municipality of York where organized sports are played and/or practiced were instructed to:

- 1. Require proof of vaccination for each person, age 12 years and older, at the point of entry, who attends the indoor area of the Facility for the purpose of:
 - a) Actively participating in organized sports
 - b) Coaching, officiating at organized sports or volunteering
 - c) Spectating at organized sports, to provide identification and proof of being fully vaccinated against COVID-19 or a valid medical exemption
- 2. Effective January 1, 2022, all children shall be given a grace period of 12 weeks from their 12th birthday during which they must provide identification in accordance with these Instructions but are not required to provide proof of being Fully Vaccinated
 - This grace period will allow a reasonable opportunity for the children to be Fully Vaccinated
- 3. Comply with all other requirements under the Reopening Ontario Act and its regulations that apply to the Facility

Sports Facilities Letter of Instruction

YORK REGION WORKPLACE VACCINATION POLICIES

- York Region strongly recommends all local employers institute and ensure compliance with a workplace COVID-19 vaccination policy to protect workers and the public
- On October 22, 2021, York Region released the <u>recommendations</u> and a <u>sample policy template</u> for employers which include:
 - Key components of a vaccination workplace policy
 - Links to resources to support an educational course on vaccination
- Information is available on the York Region website:
 york.ca/COVID19forBusiness

SCHOOL UPDATES

SCHOOL/CHILDCARE SCREENING TOOL

- Effective October 18, 2021, York Region Public Health will require students, parents and guardians to use the provincial COVID-19 school and child care screening tool
- Before the COVID-19 pandemic anyone experiencing any signs or symptoms of illness should **not have** attended school or child care.
 This remains the same during COVID-19
- Anyone experiencing **mild symptoms** not included on the current provincial screening tool (e.g., runny nose, sore throat) should not go to school

COVID-19 school and child care screening

Answer the following questions to help you decide if you should or should not go to school/child care today.



You must stay home if you have COVID-19 symptoms or are waiting for test results after experiencing symptoms

Everyone in your household (unless they are fully vaccinated) must also stay home until you get a negative COVID-19 test result, or you are cleared by public health, or you are diagnosed with another illness. Get a COVID-19 test (not a rapid antigen test) if you have symptoms of COVID-19 or are a contact of a known COVID-19 case.

Anyone who is sick or has any symptoms of illness, including those not listed in this screening tool, should stay home and seek assessment from their health care provider if needed.

This screening cannot diagnose you. If you have medical questions, consult a health care provider or your local public health unit. Listen to the advice of your local public health unit first, as their advice overrules the advice in this screening.

You must screen for COVID-19 every day before going to school/child care.

If your school board, child care provider, or public health unit has another screening process, you can use that instead.

Start school screening

SCHOOL GUIDANCE

COVID-19 Health, Safety and Operational Guidance for Schools

- Increased restrictions on cafeteria use for elementary schools
- In-person school assemblies for elementary schools will not be permitted effective January 2022
- For the winter semester starting in February 2022, school boards can move to regular timetabling models (i.e., four courses per day)
 - With the support of the local medical officer of health, secondary schools are able to return to regular timetables in the current semester as of November 2021

TESTING MODALITIES FOR SCHOOLS

 Community based PCR testing for schools and child care centres available:

George Street Public School

115 George Street
Town of Aurora, ON L4P 2S3
Starting Wednesday, October 13, 2021
Wednesdays and Thursdays
2 p.m. to 7 p.m.

St. Jean de Brebeuf Catholic High School

(Portables)
2 Davos Road
City of Vaughan, ON L4H 2Y1
Starting Tuesday, October 19, 2021
Tuesdays and Thursdays
3:30 p.m. to 7 p.m.

TESTING MODALITIES FOR SCHOOLS

- Take home PCR testing for schools was announced by the Province on November 17, 2021
 - Symptomatic students and exposed/close contact asymptomatic students and staff may use PCR home collection kits and drop off at locations in the community
- Rapid antigen testing strategies are being applied on a case-by-case basis, including for the purpose of Test-to-Stay and asymptomatic screening
 - Only asymptomatic students, not part of dismissed cohorts would be eligible for rapid antigen testing
- Rapid antigen screening tests will be distributed to students in public schools for testing over the December break
- All testing programs are voluntary

COVID-19 VACCINE UPDATES

VACCINE COVERAGE

York Region Coverage of Doses Administered to York Region Residents

As of 8:00am November 24, 202

	People Who Have Had at Least One Dose		People Who Have Had at Least Two Doses		People Who Have Had Three Doses	
Age Group	Count	Proportion	Count	Proportion	Count	Proportion
80+	48,486	98.5%	47,385	96.2%	9,988	20.28%
75 - 79	33,908	95.0%	33,417	93.6%	3,681	10.31%
70 - 74	49,830	90.2%	49,148	89.0%	5,231	9.47%
65 - 69	59,193	90.9%	58,291	89.5%	2,446	3.76%
60 - 64	70,088	87.2%	68,936	85.8%	4,292	5.34%
55 - 59	80,489	88.0%	78,920	86.3%	2,508	2.74%
50 - 54	81,011	89.7%	79,413	87.9%	2,146	2.37%
45 - 49	77,041	91.6%	75,310	89.5%	1,816	2.16%
40 - 44	70,554	94.4%	68,827	92.1%	1,509	2.02%
35 - 39	66,488	91.0%	64,532	88.3%	1,410	1.93%
30 - 34	61,713	83.0%	59,583	80.1%	1,312	1.76%
25 - 29	62,594	79.5%	60,388	76.7%	1,489	1.89%
20 - 24	64,747	83.4%	62,415	80.4%	893	1.15%
18 - 19	27,121	82.5%	26,313	80.1%	131	0.40%
12 - 17	78,340	87.3%	75,352	84.0%	142	0.16%
Eligible (12+)	931,603	88.5%	908,230	86.3%	38,994	3.70%

COVID-19 VACCINE FOR 5-11 AGE GROUP

- On November 19, Health Canada <u>authorized</u> the use of the Pfizer-BioNTech Comirnaty vaccine in children 5 to 11 years of age
- NACI recommends that complete series of the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine (10 mcg) may be offered to children 5-11 years of age who do not have contraindications to the vaccine

Eligibility

- Based on year of birth rather than date of birth
- Children must be turning five years old by the end of 2021 (born in 2016)
- If a child turns 12 after they receive the first dose, they should get the adult 30mg dose as their second dose
- 91, 000 children aged 5-11 in York Region will be eligible to be vaccinated

COVID-19 VACCINE FOR 5-11 AGE GROUP (CONT.)

Interval

8-week interval between first and second dose

Co-administration

 Coadministration not recommended for 5-11 year olds (COVID-19 vaccine will need to be given 14 days before or 14 days after any other vaccine)

Consent

Children aged five (or turning five in 2021) to 11 will require <u>parental consent</u>

Ministry of Health COVID-19 Vaccine Administration

PEDIATRIC VACCINE CLINICAL INFORMATION

	Adult/adolescent formulation	Pediatric formulation		
Age	12 years of age and over	5 (birth year of 2016) to less than 12 years		
Color	Purple	Orange		
Diluent	1.8 ml	1.3 ml		
Dose	0.3 ml (30 micrograms)	0.2 ml (10 micrograms)		
Doses per vial	6	10		
Potential allergens	Polyethylene glycol (PEG)	Polyethylene glycol (PEG)Tromethamine (Tris)		
Post-dilution time Can be at room temperature	6 hours	• 12 hours		
Ancillary supplies	Low dead volume needle/syringe	Low dead volume needle/syringe		
Storage	 Ultra-frozen until expires Frozen for 2 weeks Refrigerator for 31 days Room temperature 8 hours: 2 hours pre-puncture; 6 hours post-puncture (post-dilution) 	 Ultra-frozen until expires Refrigerator for 10 weeks* Room temperature: 24 hours; no more than 12 hours post-puncture (post-dilution) 		
Transport	Ultra-frozen or frozenIf thawed, 12 hour maximum	 Ultra-frozen If thawed, no limit TBD* 		

COVID-19 VACCINATION FOR 5-11 AGE GROUP IN YORK REGION

- York Region is working alongside local school boards to launch school-based vaccination clinics in targeted school locations
- In addition, five to 11-year-olds will be able to access popup clinics and community hub clinics across York Region
- Every effort will be made to make the vaccination process as comfortable as possible for children and families, including support to reduce anxiety and vaccine-related fears

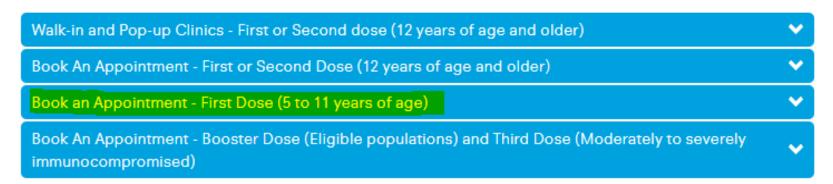




COVID-19 VACCINATION FOR 5-11 AGE GROUP IN YORK REGION (CONT.)

- Appointments must be made for five to 11-year-olds
- Residents can book an appointment online at <u>york.ca/COVID19Vaccine</u> or by calling Access York at 1-877-464-9675

Select a COVID-19 Vaccine Clinic







PROVIDING COVID-19 VACCINE IN YOUR PRIMARY CARE OFFICE

Eligibility Criteria

- Must be a health care provider in York Region
- Must have a designated vaccine fridge that meets
 Ministry of Health Vaccine Storage and Handling
 Guidelines

If you are interested in administering COVID-19 vaccine at your clinic, please email covid19vaccine@york.ca

If you are not administering COVID-19 vaccine at your clinic, please refer clients to york.ca/covid19vaccine for information regarding vaccine access.



PROVINCIAL RESOURCES ON 5-11 VACCINATIONS

- COVID-19 Vaccine Information Sheet: For Children (age 5-11)
- Ministry of Health- Pediatric Pfizer COVID-19 Vaccine: Frequently Asked Questions
- Ministry of Health- COVID-19 Vaccine Administration Guidance
- Dedicated Ontario.ca children and youth vaccination webpage: ontario.ca/covidvaccinekids
- Children & Youth Vaccination Fact Sheet
- Children & Youth Vaccination Poster

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES TO SUPPORT 5-11 VACCINATION

- The Canadian Paediatric Society has provided a <u>directory of resources for paediatricians</u> to help health professionals educate families on COVID-19 vaccination
- Read this document on <u>Supporting Conversations with Youth about the</u>
 <u>COVID-19 Vaccine</u> by the Ontario Association of Children's Aid Societies
- Review <u>these resources on the CARD System</u> put together by SickKids
- The <u>Vaccine Hesitancy Guide</u> presents advice, scripts and resources to help navigate conversations about COVID-19 vaccines with hesitant patients.
 These have been developed with clinicians from across Canada
- Parents, caregivers and children with questions about the vaccine are encouraged to speak to their primary care provider, call the Provincial Vaccine Confidence Line at 1-833-943-3900, visit COVID-19 Vaccine
 Consult Service to book a phone appointment with a SickKids clinician, or call York Region Public Health at 1-800-361-5653 and ask to speak to a public health nurse
- Access slides, recording, and resources for the November 26 <u>Getting Kids</u>
 <u>Back to Being Kids session</u> hosted by the OCFP and Ministry of Health



Meet Max the Vax!
@covid19vaccinefacts

UPDATED PROVINCIAL RECOMMENDATIONS FOR COVID-19 BOOSTERS/THIRD DOSES

- On November 6, 2021, the Ontario Government <u>announced</u> an expansion of eligibility for booster doses and third doses of COVID-19 vaccine
- Third doses (3-dose primary series) are given to enhance the immune response and establish an adequate level of protection for individuals who developed no or sub-optimal immune response to a 2-dose primary series
 - A third dose of a COVID-19 vaccine is available for moderately to severely-immunocompromised individuals at
 an interval of two months (56 days), with a minimum interval of 28 days, after the last dose of the initial
 primary series
- Booster doses are given with the intent to restore protection that may have decreased over time
 - A booster dose of a COVID-19 vaccine is available for the following additional individuals six months (168 days) after receiving their second dose:
 - Vulnerable older adults in congregate care settings
 - Individuals aged 70 and over (born in 1951 or earlier)
 - Health care workers and <u>designated essential caregivers</u>
 - First Nation, Inuit and Métis adults and their non-Indigenous household members
 - Individuals who received a complete series of a viral vector vaccine (two doses of the AstraZeneca vaccine or one dose of the Janssen vaccine)

COVID-19 VACCINES FOR PREGNANT AND BREASTFEEDING PATIENTS



- Primary Care Practitioners are requested to help reach out to individuals who are pregnant, breastfeeding or planning to become pregnant
- 3 'A's: Ask, Advise and Act
 - Ask "Have you had a chance to get the COVID-19 vaccine yet?"
 - Advise that one of the most effective ways we can protect ourselves and community from COVID-19 is to be vaccinated
 - Act by giving them information on how to access a COVID-19 vaccination
 - york.ca/COVID19vaccine

COVID-19 Vaccines in Pregnancy (Ministry of Health)

Pregnancy, Breastfeeding and COVID-19 (York Region Public Health)

COVID-19 VACCINE MYTH BUSTING VIDEOS

York Region has created a series of myth busting videos that will be promoted in our Twitter and FaceBook postings:

 York Region on Twitter: "COVID-19 vaccines are safe and an incredibly effective step forward in the fight against COVID-19. We know there are a lot of myths out there. Learn more from Dr. David Burt: https://t.co/Js0L13QO9D" / Twitter

Other videos:

- Do I need a vaccine if I already had COVID-19?
- Do COVID-19 vaccines cause fertility issues?
- Did Health Canada approve COVID-19 vaccines?
- Are COVID-19 vaccines experimental?
- <u>Do I need a COVID-19 vaccine if I am young and healthy?</u>
- Why does COVID-19 vaccine information keep changing?



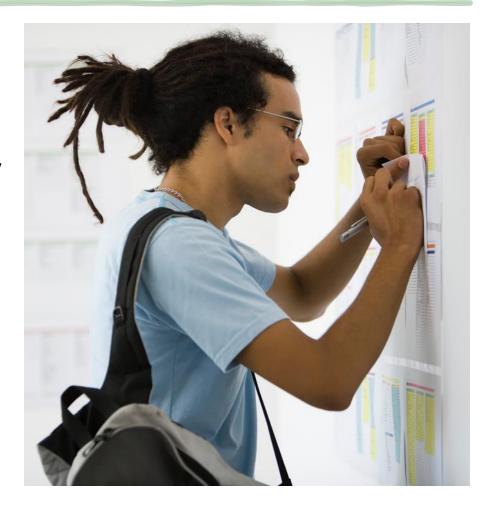
CO-ADMINISTRATION OF COVID-19 VACCINES WITH NON-COVID-19 VACCINES • NACI recommends that COVID-19 vaccines with Non-Covid-19 vac



- NACI recommends that COVID-19 vaccines for individuals 12 years of age and older may be given at the same time, as other vaccines including live, non-live, adjuvanted or unadjuvanted vaccines. This recommendation has been endorsed by the Province of Ontario
 - Coadministration not recommended for 5-11 year olds (COVID-19 vaccine will need to be given 14 days before or 14 days after any other vaccine)
- Facilitates influenza vaccine programs in the fall and winter months and other routine vaccine programs that were disrupted due to the COVID- 19 pandemic

ROUTINE SCHOOL IMMUNIZATIONS FOR GRADE 7-12

- On November 11, 2021, York Region Public Health has restarted the routine school immunizations clinics program for eligible students to receive vaccines against Hepatitis B, Human Papillomavirus (HPV) and Meningococcal disease
- These routine school immunizations will be offered at community vaccine clinics and are available for:
 - All eligible grade 7 students who will miss their doses of vaccines
 - All eligible grade 8 to 12 students who missed any doses of these vaccines due to school closures and the pandemic response
- For more information and to book an appointment, visit the YR <u>immunization clinics</u> webpage.



Q&A PERIOD

LINKS TO BOOKMARK

Centre for Effective Practice

COVID-19 Resource Centre - practical evidence for primary care

York Region

york.ca/healthprofessionals - health care provider specific page
york.ca/COVID19 - general COVID-19 page

Public Health Ontario

Report of Adverse Event Following Vaccination - form

Ministry of Health

<u>COVID-19 Guidance for the Health Care Sector</u> - Provincial COVID-19 guidance <u>COVID-19 Vaccine-Relevant Information and Planning Resources</u> - Provincial vaccination guidance

VACCINE RESOURCES

COVID-19 Community of Practice for Ontario Family Physicians - https://www.dfcm.utoronto.ca/covid-19- community-practice

Ontario College of Family Physicians - https://www.ontariofamilyphysicians.ca/tools-resources/covid-19- resources

Centre for Effective Practice - https://cep.health/clinical-products/covid-19-vaccines/

VaxFacts (Scarborough Health Network) - https://shn.ca/vaxfacts/

Max the Vax http://www.oacas.org/what-we-do/communications-and-public-engagement/maxthevax/ Stickers, posters, FAQ and a lots of links to resources on social media

Sick Kids vaccine information phone line

https://www.sickkids.ca/en/care-services/support-services/covid-19-vaccine-consult/

Children's Covid Vaccine Table https://kidshealthfirst.ca/ FAQ and links to resources for kids, parents/caregivers and youth

About Kids Health https://www.aboutkidshealth.ca/article?contentid=3937&language=english

<u>Wise Practices for those supporting COVID Vaccination</u> - Webinar hosted by the Indigenous Primary Health Care Council on Dec. 7, 2021

VACCINE RESOURCES

Addressing Needle Fear in Kids

CARD system https://www.aboutkidshealth.ca/card Comfort, Ask, Relax, Distract. The CARD system has an evidence proven approach to decreasing pain and fear for needles.

Immunize Canada https://immunize.ca/pain-management-children Tips, tricks and handouts on reducing needle pain in children including a two pager with tips for the days leading up to vaccine as well as at the time of vaccination.

Dr Anna Taddio: Reduce the Pain of Vaccination in Children - AboutKidsHealth https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TGGDLhmqH8l&list=PLjJtOP3StluUPbAkWgm5V17T dXBGA1uzH&index=1 https://phm.utoronto.ca/helpinkids/resources1.html

Needle Pain and Phobia. How to avoid fear of needles and vaccines by Dr. Andrea Furlan -SKIP (Solutions for Kids in Pain) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1XoGUTbFOtl

YORK.CA/HEALTH **PROFESSIONALS**





Announcements and Resources

York Region provides important public health updates and offers events and resources, like the Public Health Matters newsletter, to support health care providers



COVID-19 Information for Health Professionals

York Region Public Health continues to provide support for health professionals related to COVID-19 (formerly referred to as novel coronavirus or

coronavirus disease 2019



Cannabis

Cannabis, also known as marijuana, weed or pot, can be consumed for medical and non-medical purposes. Find out more about legalization and the



E-Newsletter for Health Care Professionals

Sign up to receive the quarterly Public Health Matters E-Newsletter for health care professionals.

Child Growth and Development

Find tools and resources for parents to help children grow and develop. When parents know what to expect at each stage of development, it can be easier to meet their child's needs and understand



Early Years Support Services Registry

This is a resource for health, early learning and child are professionals in York Region who wish to refer a young child or their family for support services. It provides information about programs and services available including details regarding eligibility and

NEWSROOM **I** Connect With Us! YouTube Instagram Mobile

Campaigns & Projects



Radon: Test Your Home

You can't see, taste or smell radon but it is the second leading cause of lung cancer. Learn more about radon and the York Region study.

More Campaigns & Projects >>

Contact Us

Health Connection

EMAIL

THANK YOU

