

**Ministry of Health**

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**Ministère de la Santé**

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May 13, 2021

**Memorandum to:** Local Medical Officers of Health

**From:** Dr. David Williams  
Chief Medical Officer of Health

Dr. Homer Tien  
Chair, COVID-19 Vaccine Distribution Task Force

**Subject:** Vaccinations for Youth Aged 12-17

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We are pleased to be writing regarding the next phase of our vaccine roll out. As you are aware, the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine has now been approved for youth ages 12 to 17. This approval provides an important opportunity to continue to keep schools healthy and safe. Starting May 31, 2021, individuals 12 years of age and older in Ontario will be eligible to register for a vaccination appointment.

Local public health units (PHUs), in partnership with school boards, will be responsible for the development of local vaccination plans for this age group, including for their family members/caregivers who have not yet received a vaccine. The plans should be developed with a special focus on harder to reach student populations. We appreciate the continued and strong collaboration you have had with school boards throughout this school year and historically.

PHU plans should include multiple ways to access vaccination and consider and be responsive to the unique needs of the student, parent/guardian population and subpopulations in your region. Plans should include:

- Individually-directed access to appointments through existing delivery channels in your region (Mass vaccination clinics, pop-ups/ outreach, pharmacy, primary care).
- School unit block booking at mass vaccination clinics (e.g., a block of 200 appointments set up for a school's student body – youth and families -- to attend).

- Needs based pop-up clinics for communities who face barriers to accessing vaccination.

To support a focused vaccination program, the province is directing that the weeks of June 14<sup>th</sup> and June 21<sup>st</sup> be targeted for first dose administration at mass clinics for youth and their families and the province will work with public health units and boards of education to offer second doses of the vaccine by the end of August.

To support your planning and operations, foundational documents and tools are being prepared to support vaccine education and decision making. We encourage you to work closely with your school board partners to identify areas for collaboration and partnership to support the successful implementation of this program. Opportunities for school board partnership may include targeted outreach to students and families, volunteer opportunities and/or the use of school facilities or transportation services.

The *PHU Vaccine Clinic Planning Template* has been updated to include a tab for your PHU's Youth Vaccination Plan to support your planning and will be sent shortly. Please provide your plan to [covid.immunization@ontario.ca](mailto:covid.immunization@ontario.ca) by 5:00PM on May 20, 2021.

Please contact [Todd.Pittman@opp.ca](mailto:Todd.Pittman@opp.ca) directly if you have any questions or would like support in your planning.

Thank you for your ongoing partnerships, we look forward to our next steps.



Dr. David Williams



Dr. Homer Tien

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Helen Angus, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Health

Alison Blair, Associate Deputy Minister, Pandemic Response and Recovery, Ministry of Health

Dr. Barbara Yaffe, Associate Chief Medical Officer of Health, Ministry of Health

Dr. Robin Williams, Special Advisor and Chair of Clinical Advisory Working Group, Ministry of Health

Dr. Dirk Huyer, Clinical Guidance and Surveillance Workstream COVID-19 Vaccine Distribution Task Force

Nancy Naylor, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Education

Directors of Education

Secretary/Treasurer of School Authorities