



MEDIA RELEASE

For Immediate Release

January 7, 2022

Walk-in option available for individuals ages 5 to 11 years of age at select vaccine clinic locations

HAMILTON, ON – In an effort to increase vaccination administration and provide children protection from the impact of COVID-19, beginning Monday, January 10, 2022, all individuals in the community **aged 5 to 11** can **walk into select vaccine clinic locations to receive one**.

Currently, the participating vaccination clinics are the mountain vaccine clinic at **LimeRidge Mall** as well as the vaccine clinic at the **Centre on Barton**. In coming days and weeks, these locations will be expanded. Learn about available locations, hours of operation and how to book at www.hamilton.ca/GetYourVaccine.

Hamilton healthcare partners and organizations from across the community continue to work around the clock to plan and evolve this significant expansion of local COVID-19 vaccine capacity to ensure as many Hamiltonians as possible, as quickly as possible, are able to receive the strong protection getting fully vaccinated and receiving a third dose of vaccine provides against COVID-19 and the highly-transmissible Omicron variant. Physicians, nurses, pharmacists and non-clinical staff alike are bringing the best of our community to light and stepping up in these efforts to expand Hamilton's COVID-19 vaccination campaign in a concerted effort to sustain an extremely strained healthcare system for the benefit of us all.

Booking a vaccination appointment. All other individuals who are eligible for a third or booster dose, children ages five to 11 years of age and those who would like to attend another vaccine clinic location are required to book an appointment for their vaccination. Learn about available locations, hours of operation and how to book at www.hamilton.ca/GetYourVaccine. Most individuals must wait at least three months after their second dose to receive a third/booster dose.

Public Health Services recommends that everyone who is eligible for a vaccination receive the first vaccine that is available to them. We need to work together to reduce the spread of COVID-19 in our community, to safeguard healthcare and hospital capacity and to protect vulnerable populations.

QUICK FACTS

- The Hamilton healthcare partners continue to make progress in vaccinating eligible community members. To date, 85 per cent of eligible Hamiltonians receiving a vaccine to date, and 79.8 per cent fully vaccinated - 1,086,020 doses of the COVID-19 vaccine have been administered, including 189,692 third and booster doses. 39.4 per cent of children aged five to 11 have received a first dose.
- Hamilton Public Health Services remains committed to the Last Mile Strategy with the priority being administering both first and second doses of the COVID-19 vaccine and ensuring neighbourhoods with lower coverage rates have access to information tailored to their needs and vaccine that is accessible at convenient locations and times.
- Hamilton Public Health Services continues to focus on administering first and second doses to all eligible individuals ages 5+ as well as third and booster doses of vaccine to eligible populations.
- The National Advisory Committee on Immunization (NACI) recommends an interval of at least eight weeks between the first and second dose since emerging evidence in adults suggests that compared to shorter intervals, longer intervals between the first and second doses result in a stronger immune response, higher vaccine effectiveness that is expected to last longer, and may be associated with a lower risk of myocarditis and/or pericarditis in adolescents and young adults.
- Based on the NACI recommendation, Hamilton Public Health Services advises community members that eight weeks is recommended for best immune response and decreased risk of myocarditis and/or pericarditis, however and as per our clinical protocol and with informed consent, Hamilton Public Health Services permits bookings of a 21-day interval between first and second doses. Community members may wish to consult with their family's general practitioner, pediatrician or local pharmacist to understand benefits and risks.
- The Pfizer BioNTech mRNA COVID-19 vaccine supply is limited across all Hamilton COVID-19 vaccine clinics. The Pfizer mRNA COVID-19 vaccine will be reserved for those individuals under the age of 30 for 1st, 2nd and 3rd doses until further notice. Individuals over the age of 30 will be offered the Moderna mRNA COVID-19 vaccine when arriving at a vaccine clinic.
- Vaccine administration rates may differ based on local context. All vaccination planning is based on and contingent on available COVID-19 vaccine supply and the necessary health and human resources.
- It is vital that members of the public, even those who have been vaccinated, ensure that public health measures still be practiced until it is safe and said to be safe by the health professionals in all levels of government.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- www.hamilton.ca/COVIDvaccines
- www.hamilton.ca/coronavirus
- <https://covid-19.ontario.ca>
- <https://kidshealthfirst.ca/>
- Public Health Services' COVID-19 Vaccine Hotline: 905-974-9848, option 7 or phscovidvaccine@hamilton.ca

- Public Health Services' COVID-19 Hotline: 905-974-9848 or phscovid19@hamilton.ca

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MEDIA CONTACTS

Jacqueline Durlov
Communications Officer, City of Hamilton
905-977-8596
Jacqueline.Durlov@hamilton.ca