

SUBJECT: COVID-19 Vaccination for Children Ages 5 - 11
Date: November 18, 2021
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To: Primary Care Providers, Hospitals
From: Dr. Nicola Mercer, Medical Officer of Health

Primary Care is the foundation for children's immunization and building on this Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph (WDGPH) is pleased to support all Family Health Teams, Community Health Centre and primary care providers in vaccinating children in our community against COVID-19.

At this point in time, it is anticipated that Health Canada will approve the Pfizer vaccine for children ages 5-11 on Friday, November 19. It is also widely expected that the National Advisory Committee on Immunization (NACI) will provide their guidance on or very close to the same date. The United States began vaccinating children on November 2, 2021 and are approaching two million children vaccinated.

The information below is intended to be used for planning purposes while we await more information from Health Canada, NACI, and the Province of Ontario.

All children 5-11 will become eligible for vaccination on the same date, allowing families to be vaccinated together more easily. The recommended interval for first and second doses in this population is unknown at this time.

Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph Public Health (WDGPH) is unable to provide a firm date for when pediatric vaccine will be available in our region, however, we are currently planning for vaccination to begin on or before November 29, 2021. The Ministry is aware that some local clinics are already planned for November 25 and 26. WDGPH remains optimistic that this timeline is still possible, and we continue to monitor the vaccines' planned arrival. The pediatric vaccine is currently located in the United States.

WDGPH will be collaborating with Children's Treatment Centres (i.e., KidsAbility Centre for Child Development) to provide COVID-19 vaccination to children receiving care from these organizations. WDGPH continues to offer accessibility, accommodation and language supports at all our vaccination clinics. If you have children in your practice who will require vaccination in a special setting as a result of underlying medical or behavioural issues, please refer parents to our [accessibility and accommodation process](#).

WDGPH has compiled information for parents and caregivers looking to learn more about the COVID-19 vaccine for children ages 5-11 on our website: wdgpublichealth.ca/vaccine-kids. We will continue to post the latest updates as we learn more about the rollout of this vaccine.

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It is expected that information sheets as well as short videos to support the mixing and provision of this vaccine will be available from the Province of Ontario soon. WDGPH also intends to provide educational videos to physicians once the vaccines are delivered to our offices. Additionally, WDGPH will provide primary care offices direct access to phone support while your offices are vaccinating to ensure your questions are answered quickly. Please call 519-822-2715 ext. 7010 to access COVID-19 vaccine provider support. For less urgent questions you may email: HCP.COVID19questions@wdgpublichealth.ca.

For more information, please contact:

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