

HALTON REGION PUBLIC HEALTH • Office of the Medical Officer of Health

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TO: Pharmacists

FROM: Dr. Patrick Galange, Associate Medical Officer of Health

DATE: November 26, 2024

RE: Supporting Access to COVID-19 Vaccinations for Children Under 5 and Homebound Clients

QUICK FACTS

- The [COVID-19 Pharmacy Vaccine Locations Tool](#) now includes filters to identify pharmacies offering COVID-19 vaccines for:
 - Children under 2 years old
 - Children 2-4 years of age
 - In-home vaccinations for homebound individuals
- If your pharmacy provides these services but is not listed, or if you are interested in offering them, please email OPDPinfolbox@ontario.ca to have your information added to the locator tool.
- Pharmacies located in Milton, Georgetown and Acton are strongly encouraged to consider offering these services to help address gaps in North Halton.
- COVID-19 vaccines are now available to homebound individuals through Ontario Health at Home (OH@Home).

KEY MESSAGES FOR HEALTHCARE PROVIDERS

- Community pharmacies are essential in improving access to COVID-19 and influenza vaccines for Halton residents.
- In Halton, children under the age of 5 have limited access to COVID-19 vaccines because there are very few:
 - Primary care providers who are administering COVID-19 vaccines to their patients.
 - Community pharmacists who are vaccinating children under 5.
- Access to COVID-19 vaccines is even more limited in North Halton. According to the [COVID-19 Pharmacy Vaccine Locations Tool](#), there are no pharmacies in Milton, Georgetown or Acton that offer COVID-19 vaccines to children under 2 years of age and only one that is offering vaccines to children 2-4 years of age.
- Ontario Pharmacists are authorized to administer COVID-19 vaccines to children 6 months of age and older. This differs from the age requirement for influenza vaccines; Pharmacists can only administer influenza vaccines to children 2 years and older.
- For the 2024/2025, season, there are only two approved COVID-19 vaccine products available in Ontario:
 - **Moderna KP.2:** For individuals 6 months and older
 - **Pfizer KP.2:** For individuals 12 years and older

- Children under 5 and children under 2 no longer require an age-specific COVID-19 vaccine. Moderna KP.2 can be administered to anyone 6 months of age and older. Refer to [Ministry of Health COVID-19 Vaccine Guidance](#) for information on age-appropriate dosages and intervals.
- Tips for Pharmacists on vaccinating young children, as well as resources and tools for preparing and conducting child vaccinations, are available at [Canadian Pharmacists Association Resource Round-up: Childhood Vaccination](#).
- Pharmacists are also permitted to offer in-home vaccination services. Pharmacies that are offering this service should:
 - Develop a protocol that addresses safety measures and documentation
 - Review [General COVID-19: Vaccine Storage and Handling Guidance](#) to ensure compliance with cold chain requirements and proper transport of COVID-19 vaccines.
- COVID-19 vaccines are also available to homebound individuals through Ontario Health at Home (OH@Home). Homebound individuals who cannot access COVID-19 vaccines through other publicly available options can contact their [local OH@Home branch](#).

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

[Administering a Substance by Injection](#) Ontario College of Pharmacists

Please report all suspected/confirmed cases of [Diseases of Public Health Significance](#) (only report COVID-19 cases occurring in high-risk settings) to Public Health immediately by calling 311, 905-825-6000 or toll free at 1-866-442-5866.

PLEASE PROVIDE A COPY TO ALL PHYSICIANS IN YOUR OFFICE AND/OR POST IN EMERGENCY DEPARTMENTS AND PHYSICIAN LOUNGES. IF YOU HAVE ANY ISSUES WITH THIS ATTACHMENT, PLEASE EMAIL [DOCTORS@HALTON.CA](#).