

Important Information COVID-19 Vaccine: Youth Immunization Catch-ups

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

Millions of youth aged 12 to 17 have received COVID-19 vaccines in Canada. High vaccine uptake is very important to:

- reducing the spread of the virus
- protecting people from severe illness
- avoiding a return to very disruptive public health measures that impact our collective well being
- helping everyone return to normal activities

To make it easier to get the COVID-19 vaccine, public health teams will begin offering a COVID-19 mRNA vaccine to youth in schools across the province starting in mid-September. Students born on or before December 31, 2009, who are missing at least one dose of the COVID-19 mRNA vaccine will be eligible. You will get more information before the clinic date letting you know when the COVID-19 vaccine will be offered in your child's school.

You can review information about the COVID-19 mRNA vaccine which is available online at manitoba.ca/covid19/vaccine/resources.html for more information about the risks and benefits of vaccination. Here you can also find more information for special situations such as autoimmune conditions.

If you would like your child to receive the COVID-19 mRNA vaccine at school, you can access the consent form and learn more about the consent process at protectmb.ca/youth-covid-19-vaccines/. For households that can't access or print an online consent form, you can get a paper consent form and fact sheet from your child's school. After you complete the consent form, please have your child return this form to their teacher.

Supersites and community based pop-up clinics continue to offer the COVID-19 vaccine. Visit the Manitoba COVID-19 Vaccine Shot Finder (manitoba.ca/covid19/vaccine/finder.html) to search for locations that offer the COVID-19 vaccine in your area.

Thank you for protecting yourself, your family and your community by being immunized. You are contributing to a healthier Manitoba for all of us.