

Dear Parents/Guardians,

As directed by the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Health, School Boards in the region are working in partnership with Southwestern Public Health and Middlesex-London Health Unit to collect information for students aged 5 and older who may be interested in, and eligible for their first or second COVID-19 vaccine.

This information will be used to help guide the Health Units in their planning for further school-based and community vaccination clinics. If your child is already scheduled to receive a COVID-19 vaccine at a local clinic, please keep that appointment.

Why is vaccination important?

Millions of doses of pediatric COVID-19 vaccines have been administered around the world to date. These vaccines are safe and continue to represent the most effective strategy to protect Ontarians from COVID-19. COVID-19 vaccination coverage for those ages 5 and older is also important for the protection of our youngest children (those age 4 and under) who are not yet eligible to be vaccinated.

Vaccination is the key to returning to the activities we love most; enjoying group celebrations, visiting grandparents or those with underlying health conditions, participating in team sports, worshipping together and maintaining in-person learning, to name a few.

Interested in vaccination for your child(ren)?

Southwestern Public Health and Middlesex-London Health Unit are planning school-based and community vaccination clinics. The focus for these clinics is to provide an opportunity for elementary school students who are 5 years of age and older to be vaccinated. Any elementary student being considered for vaccination **must have consent from a parent or legal guardian - no child will be vaccinated without it. A parent/legal guardian must also be present at the time of vaccination.**

If you are interested having your child vaccinated or would like more information about the vaccine, please **complete this form** (<https://app.swpublichealth.ca/Forms/COVID19VaccinationInterest>). If you complete the form, a Public Health team member will follow up with you by phone directly to answer your questions and assist you in finding a clinic where your child can get vaccinated.

You can also review the consent form that will need to be completed on behalf of your child when you go to a clinic. When you and your child attend the school or community vaccine clinic, public health staff will complete the consent form with you. The consent form can be seen here: ([hyperlink](#))

Please complete the form by February 8, 2022

For more information on COVID-19 vaccinations for youth, please visit [MLHU website](#) or [SWPH Website](#).