

November 26, 2021

**Dear Parents and Guardians,**

Over the past year, millions of doses of COVID-19 vaccine have been administered safely and effectively to protect against the deadly virus that is continuing to impact our community. On November 19, Health Canada approved the COVID-19 vaccine for children aged 5 to 11.

As a parent of a school-aged child, you may have questions about this vaccine. For some families, the decision to vaccinate is an easy one – you have been waiting for this announcement for months. For others, it takes a bit longer to make this decision.

To support you in your decision making, our team has prepared the following materials for you and your child:

- **Click here to read** our COVID-19 Vaccines & You booklet for families and youth to find answers to common questions about this vaccine.
- **Click here to watch** a video journey through our child-friendly vaccination clinics to help prepare you and your child for what to expect at their appointment, with tips for easing nervous feelings.
- **Click here to read** a fact sheet about the COVID-19 vaccine for children aged 5 to 11.
- Visit [www.swpublichealth.ca/covid19vaccine](http://www.swpublichealth.ca/covid19vaccine) for research data, safety details, frequently asked questions, advice for talking to children about vaccines, and how to book a COVID-19 vaccine for children and teens.

If you cannot find answers to your questions in those materials, you are encouraged to speak with your family doctor or a pharmacist. You can also reach out to:

**Southwestern Public Health**

Speak with a Public Health Nurse  
English or Low German languages  
**1-800-922-0096 ext. 9** (8:30-4:30, Mon to Fri)

**SickKids COVID-19 Vaccine Consult Service**

Province-wide phone consult service  
Available in many languages  
[www.sickkids.ca/vaccineconsult](http://www.sickkids.ca/vaccineconsult)

Visit [www.covidvaccineLM.ca](http://www.covidvaccineLM.ca) to book an appointment. This is the fastest and easiest way to book an appointment at one of our clinics in Woodstock, St. Thomas or Tillsonburg. The website also includes dates for pop-up clinics, including the Ontario Police College in Aylmer. These are by appointment only.

Southwestern Public Health is committed to not vaccinating a child in this age group without parental or guardian consent.

We look forward to seeing you and your child at our COVID-19 vaccination clinics soon, and we wish your children much health and success this school year.



**Dr. Joyce Lock**  
Medical Officer of Health  
Southwestern Public Health