

June 29, 2021

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www.timiskaminghu.com

Dear Parent or Guardian,

Youth aged 12 and over across Ontario are eligible to receive the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine. Youth can get the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine by attending a Timiskaming Health Unit (THU) clinic or at a participating pharmacy.

The Timiskaming Health Unit urges all eligible children and youth age 12 years and older to get the COVID-19 vaccine. Being vaccinated helps prevent the virus from spreading to family and friends, and to people more likely to get very sick from COVID-19. The more people who are vaccinated, the sooner everyone can return to a more normal life. Youth should get their first dose of the vaccine by early July in order to be able to receive their second dose in mid-August. This ensures they can build immunity before their return to school, as it takes two weeks for a dose of the vaccine to take full effect.

Appointments can be scheduled through:

- The provincial booking system
- Timiskaming Health Unit call centre 866 747-4305, ext. 6
- Local pharmacies administering the Pfizer vaccine

Youth must be 12 years old by the date of their appointment.

Clinic schedules are available here: COVID-19 Vaccine Clinics

The Pfizer vaccine is the only COVID-19 vaccine that has been authorized by Health Canada for use with people aged 12-17 at this time. Family members who have not received a vaccine are encouraged to attend these clinics so that youth and their families can be vaccinated together. Visit our website for to help answer any questions you may have about the COVID-19 vaccines and to help your child prepare and know what to expect after they receive the vaccine.

If you have access to the Internet, please visit <u>our website</u> (<u>www.timiskaminghu.com</u>) for more information on youth and vaccines. Here, you will also find various resources including a series of videos of Timiskaming's Acting Medical Officer of Health Dr. Corneil responding to questions youth have about the COVID-19 vaccine.

If you as a parent or caregiver have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact us at 866 747-4305, ext. 6 or email us at covidvaccine@timiskaminghu.com. Thank you for all your support and patience during this challenging time.

Sincerely,

Amanda Mongeon Manager, School and Community Health Timiskaming Health Unit