



Owen Sound District Secondary School

Jeff Brookshaw, Principal
Maureen Radbourne, Vice-Principal
Laurie Trudell, Vice-Principal
Susan Lavergne, Office Manager

750 9th Street West
Owen Sound, ON N4K 3P6
Telephone: (519) 376-6050
Fax: (519) 370-6632
www.osdss.bwdsb.on.ca



May 28, 2021

Subject: A vaccine is now available for youth 12 and up

Dear Parents/Guardians:

Vaccines are strongly recommended by public health and science experts as the most effective way to protect your child, your family, and your community from COVID-19. Vaccines will help students and families to safely resume normal activities as soon as possible.

Health Canada has authorized the use of the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine for youth aged 12 and up. Ontarians aged 12 to 17 are now able to book an appointment for a free first dose of the vaccine through the provincial booking system.

Although most youth vaccinations will occur in our four local vaccine hub locations, please be sure to watch for youth pop-up clinics and primary care delivery options.

To help ensure students can be fully vaccinated before they return to school in September, there is a shortened second dose interval for this age group. This means youth aged 12 to 17 can receive their second dose 56 days after their first dose.

Most children with COVID-19 have mild symptoms or none at all. However, some children with COVID-19 can get very sick. Children can also spread COVID-19 to other people. Vaccinating children protects them from getting sick and reduces virus spread within their household and the community.

To help your child and your family to make an informed decision, the Government of Ontario has developed a fact sheet (attached) based on expert medical advice and scientific information. It covers several key areas including:

- Safety of the vaccine for youth
- Why vaccination is important
- Effectiveness of the vaccine for youth

As well, there is a [dedicated webpage](#) that outlines how to book and prepare for your child's vaccination appointment. It provides information about the province's current plan for youth vaccinations, answers key questions around safety and effectiveness, and provides links to external sites for more information. You and your child are also encouraged to talk to your

health care provider or [contact Grey Bruce Public Health](#) if you have questions about the vaccine.

Supporting your child to be vaccinated against COVID-19 is an important step in the fight against this disease. It will be a key factor in helping our school community return to a sense of normalcy and will benefit overall physical and mental health for children, youth, and their families.

Sincerely,

Jeff Brookshaw
Principal
Owen Sound District Secondary School