

TO: Independent Child Care Providers

FROM: Phil Graham
Assistant Deputy Minister
Early Years and Child Care Division

DATE: May 13, 2021

SUBJECT: **COVID-19 Vaccine Update – Access for Child Care Workers**

The government values the role that all child care workers have been playing – in licensed and unlicensed settings – to keep children and families safe during the COVID-19 pandemic. Child care workers in a variety of settings are making a difference and supporting working parents at this critical time. The purpose of this communication is to inform you of the latest developments regarding access to COVID-19 vaccines for independent child care providers working in unlicensed settings.

Eligibility, Timing and Registration

Child care workers in unlicensed child care settings who directly provide care for children who are not related to the provider are now eligible to book vaccination appointments.

In order to secure an appointment, eligible individuals are asked to provide an individual attestation to the fact that they are an independent child care provider who directly provides care to children who are not related. The attestation must be made at the vaccination appointment.

Eligible providers who are in a Public Health Unit (PHU) using the provincial booking system will be asked to book their vaccination appointment by calling the Provincial Vaccine Booking Line number at 1-833-943-3900, online through the [provincial booking system](#), or directly through public health units that use their own booking system.

PHUs not using the provincial booking system (see appendix) will provide further details on how independent child care providers within their jurisdiction can book appointments. Please watch for updates and announcements from your local PHU.

It is important that you **exercise patience during this period**, as it could take time for you to receive an appointment. While you will now have the ability to book an appointment, this announcement does not prioritize independent child care operators

ahead of others who are also currently eligible. We ask that you continue to monitor public service announcements in your communities to determine whether you may be eligible to register for a vaccine based on other eligibility criteria.

For general inquiries, individuals can call the Provincial Vaccine Information Line number 7 days a week from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. at 1-888-999-6488.

Supporting vaccination for independent child care providers is in addition to recent announcements made to vaccinate individuals at mass immunization, mobile and pop-up clinics in COVID-19 hot spot zones, pharmacies and primary care settings across the province. Individuals can find out if they live in a hot spot community by visiting Ontario's [website](#) for a list of designated postal codes. Visit [How to book a COVID-19 vaccine appointment](#) for more information.

Please note that local PHUs are responsible for managing and overseeing the distribution and administration of vaccines for their entire region. PHUs are required to take multiple factors into consideration including local context and available supply of vaccine. Timing of the booking of appointments and administration of vaccines for independent child care providers may therefore vary for reasons beyond the PHU's control (e.g., vaccine supply).

Next Steps

It continues to be important to reinforce strong health and safety practices in all child care settings whether or not child care providers have received their first dose of the COVID-19 vaccine. You may access a copy of the latest health and safety guidance available on the ministry [website](#).

The COVID-19 pandemic has introduced several challenges. We thank you for your efforts and contributions in supporting Ontario's children and families during this time.

Sincerely,

Phil Graham

APPENDIX:

Public Health Units not using the provincial call centre Bureaux de santé publique locaux n'utilisant pas le centre d'appel provincial

1. Lambton Health Unit / Circonscription sanitaire de Lambton
2. North Bay Parry Sound District Health Unit / Bureau de santé du district de North Bay-Parry Sound
3. Peterborough County-City Health Unit / Bureau de santé de Peterborough
4. Sudbury and District Health Unit / Service de santé publique de Sudbury et du district
5. Timiskaming Health Unit / Bureau de santé de Témiskamingue
6. District of Algoma Health Unit / Santé publique Algoma
7. Chatham-Kent Health Unit / Bureau de santé de Chatham-Kent
8. Durham Regional Health Unit / Bureau de santé de Durham
9. Haldimand-Norfolk Health Unit / Bureau de santé d'Haldimand-Norfolk
10. Halton Regional Health Unit / Bureau de santé de la région de Halton
11. Windsor-Essex County Health Unit / Unité sanitaire de Windsor-comté d'Essex
12. Brant County Health Unit / Bureau de santé du comté de Brant
13. Middlesex-London Health Unit / Bureau de santé de Middlesex-London
14. Porcupine Health Unit / Bureau de santé Porcupine
15. Southwestern Health Unit / Bureau de santé du Sud-Ouest
16. Huron Perth Public Health / Circonscription sanitaire de Huron et Perth
17. York Regional Health Unit (excludes Cornell clinic) / Service de santé de la région de York (à l'exclusion de la clinique du Cornell Community Centre)
18. Renfrew County and District Health Unit / Bureau de santé du comté et du district de Renfrew
19. Waterloo Health Unit / Bureau de santé de la région de Waterloo
20. Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph Health Unit / Bureau de santé de Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph