

Dear Parents/Guardians,

We are writing to share with you that the Durham Region Health Department (DRHD) has opened COVID-19 vaccine bookings for youth 12 years of age and older. Please review the information below on how to book an appointment for your child or family.

We understand that with the expansion of COVID-19 vaccinations, more parents/guardians are thinking about what school will look like in September. As the COVID-19 pandemic continues to evolve, we are working to adapt our planning for the 2021-22 school year and will be sharing information with families in the coming weeks and months as we receive additional details and direction from the Ministry of Education and the Durham Region Health Department. We sincerely appreciate your patience as we all work through a challenging and rapidly evolving situation. Please stay tuned for more information.

Update on Vaccinations

All youth 12 to 17 years of age are now eligible to book an appointment to receive the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine in Durham Region. It is encouraged that family members who have not received the vaccine also book an appointment at the same time. To book appointments, visit www.durhamvaccinebooking.ca or call 1-888-444-5113. Individuals must be 12 years of age at the time of the vaccine appointment in order to receive the vaccine. Identification which includes date of birth is required when attending the vaccination clinic.

Appointments will be available at the Ajax, Pickering, Clarington, and Oshawa mass immunization clinics. North Durham clinic dates will be available starting on June 8 in Brock, and then rotate to Scugog and Uxbridge. A new clinic site will be introduced in Whitby that allows youth 12 to 17 years of age and their family members to receive the Pfizer vaccine. Bookings for the new Whitby clinic opens on May 27 at 9pm for appointments starting June 7.

To book an appointment at any mass immunization clinic, please visit <https://www.durhamvaccinebooking.ca/> or call 1-888-444-5113. For the Ontario Tech Campus Ice Centre Clinic (Oshawa) site please visit <http://covidvaccine.lh.ca/> or call 905-721-4828.

Vaccinating all eligible youth aged 12- 17 will further reduce the risk for everyone in the school community and is essential to ending the pandemic.

Residents are reminded that once appointment bookings open, the website will experience a significant increase in traffic resulting in considerable wait-times when trying to book appointments. Residents are asked to please be patient as they keep trying to access the site.

For further information and questions, please visit the Durham Region Health Department website at www.durham.ca/covidvaccines .

Help Name the DDSB's Two New Schools

The Durham District School Board (DDSB) is inviting community members in Durham Region to help name the two newest DDSB schools. The Unnamed North Whitby Public School (51 Lazio Street, Whitby) and Unnamed North Ajax French Immersion (FI) Public School (270 Williamson Drive, Ajax) are set to open in September 2021 and we want your input on potential school names. You can learn more about the process for naming new schools and submit your ideas by visiting the following Google Forms:

- New North Whitby Public School form: <http://bit.ly/3v89jBf>
- New North Ajax FI Public School form: <https://bit.ly/3wkueBt>

The deadline for submissions is Monday, May 31. Thank you for helping to name the DDSB's two newest schools!

Feedback Requested on In-Person and Remote Learning Experiences

As we approach the end of the school year, the DDSB in collaboration with the DDSB Student Senate would like to gather more feedback regarding your child(ren)'s in-person and remote learning experience this past year. We want to know what worked well for you and your child(ren) and where we can improve. We are all on this learning journey together and your feedback is important to help us determine how we can support your family for the rest of the school year as well as in the upcoming 2021-2022 school year

You can participate in this ThoughtExchange by visiting: <https://tejoin.com/397021920>

It will only take a few minutes to participate and you can go back to the link as frequently as you would like to review new thoughts that have been shared. The deadline to participate in the Thoughtexchange is Sunday, June 6, 2021 at 11:59 pm.

Thank You

With all the changes that families have experienced this past year and with the promising news we continue to receive on vaccinations and decreased COVID-19 cases both in Durham and provincially, it is our sincere hope that the upcoming school year will provide stability with respect to learning environments and school routines. Thank you for your understanding as we continue to adapt and change with the COVID-19 pandemic. We hope that everyone is able to enjoy the warmer weather and sunshine ahead.

Sincerely,

Durham District School Board