



fraserhealth

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Best in health care.

October 22, 2021

Dear Parent or Guardian,

COVID-19 continues to circulate in our communities. One of the best ways to continue to keep our communities and schools safe and protected is for all eligible individuals ages 12 and older to get two doses of a COVID-19 vaccine.

To increase vaccination coverage and keep communities and schools safe, Fraser Health will be holding COVID-19 vaccination clinics at several schools for staff and students who have not yet received their first or second dose of vaccine. Anyone born in 2009 or earlier (12+) is eligible.

We will be hosting a Fraser Health vaccination clinic at Guildford Park Secondary offering Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine for all staff, students and their families on October 26th from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Who can be vaccinated at the school?

This clinic is available to all members of our school community that are age 12 or older (born in 2009 or earlier). This includes students and their families, and school-based staff. Appointments are not required.

Vaccination is not mandatory, but is open to all who are eligible, except where a medical practitioner has advised otherwise.

What should I/my child bring to the clinic?

Please wear a mask to the clinic. Please also bring your Personal Health Number if you have one. You can find your Personal Health Number on the back of your BC Services Card or Care Card.

Wear loose-fitting clothing for easy access to the arm. The vaccine is given by injection into the muscle on your shoulder. Please ensure that you/your child eats breakfast or lunch prior to receiving the vaccine.

Can children consent to receiving the vaccine on their own?

We encourage families to discuss consent for immunizations with their children. Together, review the following information:

- COVID-19 vaccine HealthLinkBC file: [COVID-19 Vaccines | HealthLinkBC File 124](#)
- BCCDC COVID-19 vaccine information for children aged 12-17 and Q&A: [Children Vaccination.pdf \(bccdc.ca\)](#)
- Infants Act, mature minor consent and immunization: [The Infants Act, Mature Minor Consent and Immunization | HealthLinkBC File 119](#)

In British Columbia, children under the age of 19 who are able to understand the benefits and possible reactions for each vaccine, and the risk of not getting immunized, can legally consent to or refuse immunizations.

There is no legal age of consent for health care in B.C. **This means that your child may decide for themselves whether or not to receive a vaccine.**

It is the professional and legal responsibility of health care providers, such as our Public Health Nurses, to obtain informed consent prior to immunization. Our team of Public Health Nurses will:

- Ensure that every child has time to review and ask questions about the vaccine.
- Ask each child some questions to make sure they understand the information and are ready to make a decision.

If our nurses are not sure that a child understands, or a child is not ready to make a decision, the child will not be immunized.

If you have additional questions or concerns about COVID-19 vaccination, please speak with your health care provider. Thank you for your continued support.

Sincerely,

Fraser Health Population and Public Health COVID-19 Response Team

Population & Public Health Fraser Health

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