

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

COVID-19 vaccines are safe and continue to protect against serious illness, hospitalization and death due to COVID-19 infection. The Delta variant of the COVID-19 virus is now causing a surge of cases in Ontario and is circulating in the Porcupine Health Unit district. The Delta variant spreads more easily as we saw in the third wave of cases in the spring, and causes more serious disease. Getting the vaccine protects the individual as well as others who are vulnerable to COVID-19 including children who are too young to get the shot.

People born in 2009 (turning 12 in 2021) or older across Ontario are eligible to receive the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine. The Porcupine Health Unit will be hosting clinics in all schools with age-eligible students to offer the Pfizer vaccine to students and staff between Tuesday, September 7 and Thursday, September 16. The clinic schedule is below and on our website: <https://www.porcupinehu.on.ca/en/your-health/infectious-diseases/novel-coronavirus/covid-vaccine/>.

While there is no legal age of consent to medical procedures, including vaccination, in Ontario, the PHU will be following a similar process for other vaccines given in schools. Please find attached the consent form for the COVID-19 vaccine, which can be submitted three ways:

1. By fax to 705-360-7353
2. By email to covid-19consent@porcupinehu.on.ca
3. By sending it to school with your child and submitting to their teacher.

It is normal to have questions about vaccines. If you or your child have questions, please speak to your health care provider or contact a nurse at the Porcupine Health Unit at 705-360-4819 or 1-800-461-1818.

Information is also available on our website to help answer questions you may have and to help your child prepare for and know what to expect after they receive the vaccine: <https://www.porcupinehu.on.ca/en/your-health/infectious-diseases/novel-coronavirus/covid-vaccine/covid-vaccines-for-youth/>.

If your child would prefer to be immunized in another setting, Pfizer vaccine is available at clinics held by the Porcupine Health Unit. You can view our clinic schedule here: <https://www.porcupinehu.on.ca/en/your-health/infectious-diseases/novel-coronavirus/covid-vaccine/>.

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This pandemic has been long and very hard. Thank you for your ongoing support with public health measures and getting vaccinated to help keep our school opened this year.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lianne Catton". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Dr. Lianne Catton, MD, CCFP-EM, MPH
Medical Officer of Health/Chief Executive Officer