

NEWS RELEASE

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Youth 12-17 Eligible for Accelerated Second Dose, Additional COVID-19 Vaccine Appointments Available

NIPISSING & PARRY SOUND, ON – Starting Monday, July 5, youth aged 12 to 17 will be eligible for an accelerated second dose of the COVID-19 vaccine. Youth 12 to 17 years of age will we able to book an appointment either online at Ontario.ca/BookVaccine, by calling the provincial booking system at 1-833-943-3900, or at local pharmacies. The accelerated interval between doses for youth is 28 days.

Additionally, the North Bay Parry Sound District Health Unit (Health Unit) wishes to notify the public that more COVID-19 vaccine appointments are available in North Bay, West Nipissing, Sundridge, Parry Sound and Mattawa. These clinics will take place between July 6 and July 18, 2021.

"We continue to encourage everyone eligible for their first or second dose of the COVID-19 vaccine to book their appointment and to get vaccinated as soon as possible," reminds Andrea McLellan, Director of COVID-19 Immunization Strategy. "By getting their second shot by mid-August, this ensures youth aged 12 to 17 are fully protected against COVID-19 by the time they return to school in September."

First or second dose appointments can be booked online at Ontario.ca/BookVaccine, by calling the provincial booking system at 1-833-943-3900, or through a local pharmacy. The Health Unit wishes to remind individuals it is safe and common practice to mix vaccine brands. At this time, only the Pfizer vaccine is approved for youth aged 12 to 17.

For more information, visit <u>www.myhealthunit.ca</u>.

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