



**Thunder Bay District  
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**TBDHU.COM**

January 20, 2022

Dear Parent or Guardian,

**Re: First Dose COVID-19 Vaccine Clinics at School During Instructional Time with Consent of Parents/Guardians for Children 5 years of Age and Older**

Thank you for your ongoing support and partnership in helping us to keep your school open and safe for in-person learning.

As vaccines are safe and continue to represent the most effective strategy to protect Ontarians from COVID-19, TBDHU is pleased to work with your school to **offer first dose** clinics for students who are 5 years of age and older during school hours **but only with the consent of parents/guardians**.

Second doses will not be offered during instructional hours at this time. If your child needs a second dose, please visit [TBDHU.COM/covidclinics](https://www.tbdhu.com/covidclinics) for further information on accessing COVID-19 vaccination for your child.

**If this opportunity meets the needs of your child**, you will be asked to return a signed medical screening form and consent form to the school by Monday, January 24, 2022. Your school will then contact the TBDHU and a clinic will be scheduled. The school will advise parents/guardians of the date of the clinic in advance to allow you to prepare their child.

You can access the documents here:

- Medical screening form: [https://bit.ly/parentform\\_eng](https://bit.ly/parentform_eng)
- Consent form: [https://bit.ly/mohconsent\\_eng](https://bit.ly/mohconsent_eng)

If you would like to accompany your child to their COVID-19 vaccine appointment, please visit [TBDHU.COM/covidclinics](https://www.tbdhu.com/covidclinics) for further information, including walk-in options at TBDHU clinics (CLE Heritage Clinic for children 5-11 needing a first dose and the CLE Coliseum Clinic for children 12-17 needing a first dose).

The information below will provide additional details regarding the school clinic opportunity.

**Consent is Mandatory**

Your written consent will be required. Please review, and sign the medical screening and consent form and return them to your school by Monday, January 24. If you need a printed copy, please contact the school and request the forms be sent home with your child.

After the deadline of Monday, January 24, the school will share the documents with TBDHU in preparation for the clinic.

Children scheduled to receive a vaccine within the next 1-2 weeks at another vaccine clinic are asked to keep that appointment and not be immunized in the school setting.

### **Preparing Your Child for Vaccination**

While COVID-19 vaccinations are safe, we understand you or your child may have questions about the vaccine. Please speak to your child about the many benefits of COVID-19 vaccination and take advantage of resources available at TBDHU.COM/youthvaccine, including “How to Talk to Kids about Getting Vaccinated”.

Two additional resources from the Ontario government include “What you need to know about your vaccine appointment ([https://bit.ly/mohknowvax\\_eng](https://bit.ly/mohknowvax_eng)) and “COVID-19 Vaccine Information Sheet: For Children (age 5-11) “ ([https://bit.ly/vaxinfo511\\_eng](https://bit.ly/vaxinfo511_eng)).

The school will communicate in advance the date of the TBDHU clinic to allow you to prepare your child.

### **What to Expect during the Vaccine Appointment**

TBDHU policy does not allow TBDHU nursing staff to hold/restrain a child for immunization. If your child requires assistance, please arrange to visit another clinic so an adult can be present to hold/support the child. If your child needs an accommodation (e.g. sensory friendly space, severe needle anxiety), please visit our website (TBDHU.COM/covidclinics) and look for the tab providing options for those who require an accommodation OR call TBDHU at 625-5900 to speak with a nurse

### **Questions**

If you have questions about COVID-19 vaccines for children and youth you can access the COVID-19 Vaccine Consult Service (<https://bit.ly/covidvaxconsult>) to book a confidential phone appointment with a SickKids clinician.

Again, vaccines will not be given without **parent/guardian** consent. If this opportunity does not meet the needs of your family as you would prefer to accompany your child when they receive their vaccine, please visit TBDHU.COM/covidclinics for information on the options available, including the TBDHU clinics or through a local pharmacy.