



May 14, 2021

Dear Parents, Guardians, and Caregivers,

Earlier today, the province announced that eligibility for the Pfizer vaccine has been expanded to include all children aged 12 and up. Including older children and teens in the province's immunization campaign will help to protect them, your families, and our communities. <https://news.gov.mb.ca/news/?archive=&item=51284>

Appointments can be booked beginning today. Currently, this vaccine is available at supersite locations and urban Indigenous clinics located throughout the province. You can use the interactive map at [www.gov.mb.ca/covid19/vaccine/finder.html](http://www.gov.mb.ca/covid19/vaccine/finder.html) to find the location most convenient for your family.

This vaccine has been tested and found to be safe and effective. It was recently authorized for use in youth aged 12 and up by Health Canada, which means we can now expand eligibility and help provide protection against COVID-19 to your children.

Manitoba is now in the third wave of COVID-19, where we are seeing more contagious variants of concern, broader spread of the virus in our communities, higher case counts, and more serious illness in younger people. The best way to protect ourselves is by being immunized.

All eligible young people aged 12 and older or their parent / guardian / caregiver can book an appointment. To book online, they need a health card number and email address.

To book an appointment, visit <https://protectmb.ca> or call 1-844-MAN-VACC (1-844-626-8222).

Please fill out and sign a consent form that is found here: <https://manitoba.ca/covid19/vaccine/resources.html#forms>. Please bring it to your appointment.

- Youth aged 16 to 17 can complete and sign their own consent form.
- Youth aged 12 to 15 can have a parent / guardian / caregiver sign the consent form for them.
- Youth aged 12 to 15 can also attend their appointment without a signed form and will go through the informed consent process with an on-site clinical lead to assess their ability to consent on their own.

.../2

Parents are welcome to accompany their children to their vaccine appointment, but it is not required. The preferred identification to bring is a health card, followed by a government-issued identification. However, any type of identification will work, including school identification cards. A vaccine can still be provided even if a person of any age arrives without identification.

You may have questions about the vaccine, the expansion of eligibility to young people, the consent process, or how to make an appointment. You can visit [protectmb.ca](https://protectmb.ca) for more information, or speak with your health care provider.

This is an important milestone in Manitoba's COVID-19 immunization campaign. We look forward to seeing you and your family at an immunization clinic soon.

Sincerely,

Dr. Joss Reimer, medical lead  
Vaccine Implementation Task Force