

May 25<sup>th</sup>, 2021

ELECTRONIC MAIL

## COMMUNICATE TO PARENTS

Dear Sir/Madam,

### **Subject: Vaccination of youths from 12 to 17 years old in the Capitale-Nationale region**

In preparation of the vaccination of youths from 12 to 17 years old in the Capitale-Nationale region, we present to you related indications below.

#### **Why vaccinate the youths?**

Even if young people are less at risk of developing COVID-19-related severe complications than elderly ones, vaccination of youths from 12 to 17 years old offers many advantages:

- Vaccinating young people will limit the transmission of the virus and help control the pandemic in the population by preventing transmission to those around them.
- Vaccinating young people will allow a relaxation of other health measures necessary for the control of transmission and that have a great impact on educational activities, students' success and retention, and the general well-being of youths.
- Vaccinating young people will limit outbreaks and class closures, thereby facilitating success and retention.
- Vaccinating young people will allow them to resume extracurricular activities and sports. These activities have a great impact on their mental and physical health.

#### **How will the vaccination of young people in the Capitale-Nationale region be organised?**

The CIUSSS de la Capitale-Nationale, in collaboration with school service centres or school boards and private educational institutions, is responsible for organizing the vaccination of youths aged from 12 to 17, with two objectives:

- Having the 1<sup>st</sup> dose of the vaccine administered to youths aged 12 and above by June 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2021.
- Achieving at least 75% of vaccination coverage for the 1<sup>st</sup> dose of COVID-19 vaccine in youths aged 12 and above.

Nevertheless, the offer to administer the first dose for 12–17-year-olds will continue throughout summer to reach out to youths who, for any reason, would not have been able to take advantage of school vaccination. Thus, it will be possible for youths who turn 12 during summer to be vaccinated before the beginning of the next school year.

The Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 mRNA vaccine is the one licensed by Health Canada for this age group. To ensure broad and equitable access to immunisation, taking into consideration the different realities and constraints of handling the Pfizer vaccine, **three organisational models will be available**.

**1. From May 28 to June 23 - autonomous vaccination in vaccination centres for :**

- Students in grade 6 of elementary school, aged 12 years and above at the time of vaccination according to their date of birth;
  - Transportation provided by parents for appointments scheduled during weekends and weekdays' evenings.
- Secondary school students, regular and vocational education, aged 12 years and above at the time of vaccination according to their date of birth;
  - Transportation provided by parents for appointments scheduled during weekends and weekdays' evenings.
- Youths aged 12 years and above at the time of vaccination according to their date of birth who, for any reason, are being taught at home.
  - Transportation provided by parents for appointments scheduled during weekends and weekdays' evenings.

*The youth or his/her parent must book an appointment on the Clic Santé platform from May 25<sup>th</sup>. The platform will have a section dedicated to scheduling appointments for youths from 12 to 17 years old.*

**2. From June 7 - vaccination organised by schools in vaccination centres for :**

- Students in grade 6 of elementary school, aged 12 years and above at the time of vaccination according to their date of birth;
  - School bus transport provided for vaccination days organised on school days.
- Secondary school students, regular and vocational education, aged 12 years and above at the time of vaccination according to their date of birth;
  - School bus transport provided for vaccination days organised with schools on school days.

*Vaccination schedules for each school will be communicated in the next few days by the school authorities.*

*The choice of vaccination centres will be based on geographical proximity to schools.*

**2. From June 7 to June 23 - school-based vaccinations for :**

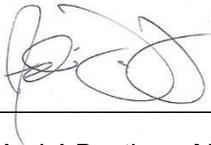
- Students aged 12 and above attending schools dedicated for youths with special needs (e.g. disabled).

*Vaccination schedules for each school will be communicated in the next few days by the school authorities.*

**Second dose**

The second dose will be administered at the beginning of the next school year in Fall 2021 or earlier if possible. Details will be communicated during summer.

We thank you for your cooperation and wish you a nice end of the school year.



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Director of Public Health

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School Board Administration