

Update on COVID-19
Dr. Eileen de Villa, Medical Officer of Health
September 21, 2021 at 12 p.m.
Woodbine Mall, 500 Rexdale Blvd.

- Thank you Mayor Tory, and good afternoon everyone.
- I am truly very, very pleased so pleased to see this new vaccine clinic location opening to provide vaccinations to people in Toronto.
- It is well-situated, it's accessible and it's ready to welcome you, if you have yet to be fully vaccinated.
- Ready and waiting, if you're amongst those yet to join the more than 2 million Torontonians who have peace of mind as a result of being vaccinated.
- I want to focus on what I think is some good news today, with regard to schools.
- Most schools have now been back for about a week and I'm delighted to say that I've heard a great deal of positive feedback and enthusiasm from parents and students alike.
- I have always been an advocate for learning in the classroom setting.
- The benefits to young people are immeasurable.
- And I am heartened to hear that the return to class is improving learning and improving moods.
- There was also some good news in the last couple of days that will impact children between the ages of five and 11.
- Early findings indicate that one of the mRNA vaccines produces a good immune response in children in that five to 11 year age range.

Public Health

- The full data are still to come and an application has yet to be made by the vaccine producer to Health Canada to complete its review before making an approval.
- The other vaccines will likely produce similar news in the not too distant future.
- This is all good news by any measure and we should wait with interest and optimism that soon we will be able to make it even harder for COVID-19 to spread – because the harder it is for COVID to spread, the easier it will be for all of us to live more normally, with less risk and fear, and more freedom to enjoy life.
- Until that day, vaccinated Torontonians are what we need.
- We are our best answer and our best defense.
- Vaccinating as many of us who are eligible for vaccine is the best way to protect those five to 11 year olds waiting on that approval.
- And what is good for those children is good for all of us.
- So, whether you come here or you find a mobile clinic or go to a pharmacy or your doctor, let's roll up those remaining sleeves here in Toronto and make the city as COVID-protected as it can be.