

Update on COVID-19
Dr. Eileen de Villa, Medical Officer of Health
September 15, 2021 at 11 a.m.
Toronto City Hall, 100 Queen St. W.

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- Thank you Mayor Tory and good morning everyone. My message to you this morning is so simple and so important there is not much more to say other than get vaccinated if you haven't been.

 - Vaccination is absolutely essential to making it harder for Delta to spread and for doing our part to prevent mutations that could lead to variants of concern.

 - Right now our biggest concern are the new cases of COVID-19 that are emerging steadily in schools.

 - This is expected given the transmissibility of Delta and the population of students under 12 who because of their age can't yet be vaccinated.

 - While it is most likely that COVID-19 will be a mild illness in a school aged child or in a young person. We know that more severe outcomes do occur in some and that our understanding of long COVID-19 is still evolving. As such, COVID-19 is still best avoided in the first place.

 - So please, get vaccinated if you're not already vaccinated. I cannot say it enough and you will hear it from me again and again until we have reached a level of vaccination that reduces risk as much as we can.

- I cannot stress enough what a positive change vaccination will be for you - feeling the confidence you will feel with less risk from COVID-19 - something you probably haven't felt very often in the past 18 months.
- Vaccination is safe, it's effective, it's protective and millions of Canadians have completed their vaccinations and gone on with everyday life - in good health, with the benefit of protection from COVID-19 and increased peace of mind and confidence as they go about their everyday life.

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