



St. Lawrence County Public Health Department

Jolene Munger, MPH, MA ■ Interim Public Health Director
80 State Highway 310, Suite 2 ■ Canton, New York 13617-1476
Phone: (315) 386-2325 ■ Fax: (315) 386-2203

Press Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: 315-386-2325

St. Lawrence County Public Health Department launches #VAXTOSTAY COVID-19 vaccinations clinics

Canton, NY— Widespread vaccination for COVID-19 is a critical tool to best protect everyone, especially those at highest risk, from severe illness and death. People who are fully vaccinated can safely resume many activities that they did prior to the pandemic. Children ages 5 years and older are able to get an age-appropriate dose of Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine.

Although children are at lower risk of becoming severely ill with COVID-19 compared with adults, children can be infected with the virus that causes COVID-19, get very sick, have both short and long-term health complications, and spread COVID-19 to others. “The vaccine has proven to be an extremely safe vaccine and provides benefit not only to the child but to their family and community,” said Dr. Kathleen Terrence, Pediatrician with St Lawrence Health and Board of Health member.

“Between 25 and 30 percent of all current active cases in St Lawrence County are in people under the age of 20,” said St Lawrence County Public Health Interim Director Jolene Munger. “Vaccination offers the best protection for all age groups from serious illness, hospitalization and death associated with COVID-19.”

The benefits of COVID-19 vaccination outweigh the known potential risks. Vaccinating children can help protect family members, including siblings who are not eligible for vaccination and family members who may be at increased risk for getting very sick if they are infected. Vaccinations can also help keep children from getting seriously sick even if they do get COVID-19. Vaccinating children ages 5 years and older can keep them in school and help them safely participate in sports, playdates, and other social activities.

“Our students have lost enough classroom time during the pandemic,” said Munger. “One of the significant benefits to vaccination is that fully vaccinated individuals who have no symptoms are not required to quarantine when exposed to a COVID positive case. This increases the likelihood that students can remain in school without gaps in learning. We are promoting our clinics as #vaxtostay.”

On Tuesday, November 9, Governor Hochul announced the "Vaccinate. Educate. Graduate" plan. The incentive calls for any children in the 5 to 11 age group who gets vaccinated to be part of a pool in which the state will select 50 names of children who will receive a full ride to a SUNY or CUNY institution for college. Parents can register their children for this incentive at <https://forms.ny.gov/s3/Vaccinate-Educate-Graduate-Vaccine-Incentive>.

The St. Lawrence County Public Health Department and Board of Health are recommending anyone eligible to receive the COVID-19 vaccine or booster dose make an appointment. Help protect your whole family and slow the spread of COVID-19 in your community by getting yourself and your children ages 5 years and older vaccinated against COVID-19. There are many places to receive a vaccine/booster including drug stores, physician offices, and St. Lawrence County Public Health.

The St. Lawrence County Health Department will be holding #vaxtostay clinics at all St. Lawrence County public elementary schools for anyone 5-11 years of age throughout the month of November. The clinics will be scheduled to get anyone that attends their second dose before the Christmas holiday/winter break. For details about your school's clinic, please ask your school for information.

The first clinic is scheduled for Saturday, November 13, 2021 at the St. Lawrence University Leithead Field House from 9:00AM – 4:00PM. This is a fun family event that will include visits from the college mascots, K9 dogs, and local firemen. To register, please visit St. Lawrence County Public Health Department's website at <https://stlawco.org/Departments/PublicHealth> or call 315-229-3452.

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