

FAMILY EMERGENCY PLANNING FOR COVID-19

May 19, 2021

Dear parents and guardians,

Thank you for following public health safety measures to keep your loved ones and communities safe. While we do our best to protect ourselves from COVID-19, it is an unpredictable virus, even more so now that variants of concern spread more easily and may cause more severe illness. Currently, the young adult population in York Region, including parents of young children, are experiencing the highest rates of COVID-19. In a growing number of cases, people in these younger populations are experiencing symptoms of COVID-19 that deteriorate quickly and suddenly at home, requiring unexpected emergency care.

It is advised that parents make a family emergency plan in the event somebody in your household needs to self-isolate or be hospitalized due to COVID-19. This plan should include arrangements for an emergency caregiver in case parents/guardians cannot care for children due to illness.

York Region has developed the attached **Family Emergency Planning for COVID-19 Form** and encourages you to print one copy for the emergency caregiver and another to give to emergency services, or a health care provider in the case of an emergency.

RESOURCES AND SUPPORTS

Taking care of a newborn or child(ren) can be challenging at any time, let alone during a pandemic. York Region has developed a [COVID-19 Resource Package for Parents and Caregivers](#) that includes information on resources, services, programs and supports in York Region to help families and caregivers during the COVID-19 pandemic. They include York Region resources and supports for families, including the *Healthy Babies, Health Children Program*, community resources, mental health supports and financial supports.

The Family Emergency Plan for COVID-19 Form and the COVID-19 Resource Package for Parents and Caregivers can also be found at york.ca/COVID19FamilySupport

GET VACCINATED WHEN ITS YOUR TURN

We strongly encourage parents of young children to get a COVID-19 vaccine as soon as its your turn. This will help to protect yourself and your children from COVID-19 and stop the spread of the virus in our community. Remember the best vaccine is the first one you're offered.

Beginning Tuesday, May 18, 2021 at 8:30 a.m., anyone 18 years of age and older living or working in York Region can book an appointment for their COVID-19 vaccination.

CHILDREN'S SERVICES
york.ca/children

The logo for York Region, featuring a stylized white star or arrow shape above the text "York Region" in a white serif font, all set against a dark blue background.

Please visit york.ca/covid19vaccine for more information and to make an appointment. Individuals 18 years of age and older can also book an appointment for the COVID-19 vaccine at any [participating pharmacy](#) in the province.

Please continue to follow [public health measures](#); stay home as much as possible, practice physical distancing, wear a mask when required and wash your hands frequently. Remember to follow these measures even if you've been vaccinated.

Sincerely,

Children's Services

The Regional Municipality of York