

BY EMAIL

September 2nd, 2021

To educational childcare services personnel

Subject: COVID-19 vaccination for childcare personnel

Childcare services have played a major social role since the beginning of the pandemic and are considered an essential service. To date, more than 5,000 cases have been reported in Montréal childcare settings, 40% of whom were members of personnel. Your being vaccinated is therefore essential to prevent the spread of COVID-19 in your environment, to promote the safe continuation of activities this fall and to continue to support Montréal families. All the more so since it is not yet possible to vaccinate young children.

The COVID-19 vaccination campaign has been stepped up in recent weeks to encourage as many unvaccinated people as possible to get vaccinated. Currently, only 65% of the Montréal population has received both doses. We are entering a fourth wave and the Delta variant, which is much more transmissible and quite possibly more dangerous than the Alpha variant, is rapidly spreading in the community. Vaccination is the only way available to us to prevent severe complications from COVID-19. Two doses of Pfizer or Moderna vaccines provide 92-94% protection against hospitalizations, intensive care stays and deaths, while preventing people from developing long Covid.

You work every day with a population that cannot yet be vaccinated. **We therefore urge you to get vaccinated now by receiving your first or second dose.** Vaccination remains the best way to combat COVID-19. By getting your two doses of vaccine, you will be better protected against complications of the disease, and you will be less likely to pass it on to children.

Easy access to vaccination, with or without an appointment

There are many locations available in Montréal, including many temporary clinics near your home or workplace. For a list of vaccination clinics (with and without an appointment) and their opening hours, go to the Santé Montréal website santemontreal.qc.ca/vaccinocovid or, for temporary clinics, go directly to the various CIUSSS websites.

You can also book an appointment at Quebec.ca/vaccinCOVID or by calling the following toll-free number: 514 644-4545.

The Delta variant is much more transmissible: people who are not vaccinated run a very, very high risk of being infected in this fourth wave. The only way to protect yourself adequately and reduce the risk of transmission to others is to get vaccinated. If you have not yet been vaccinated or have only received one dose, please don't wait a moment longer: go and get vaccinated!

Mylène Drouin, MD

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mylène Drouin". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

The director of Public Health