If your child has severe needle anxiety, general anxiety, behavioural or other special needs, and/or sensory needs, Region of Waterloo Public Health has partnered with KidsAbility to deliver a vaccination clinic that can provide your child with additional supports and special accommodations with locations in Waterloo and Cambridge. This includes providing larger private immunization spaces in a sensory-friendly clinic with reduced noise and reduced bright lights, as well as longer appointment times to better meet the needs of our clients.

Capacity at our Special Accommodation and Sensory-Safe Clinics is limited. A trusted health care provider, such as a family physician or pharmacist may also be able to provide the immunization in a quiet and private environment such as their office.

Parents, caregivers, and other household family members who are eligible to receive COVID-19 vaccines are also welcome to book their vaccinations during the same appointment time.

To request an appointment at a Special Accommodation and Sensory-Safe Clinic, complete the following referral form including as much detail as to your child’s needs during vaccination as possible. You will receive confirmation of your appointment date and time within 1-3 days of submission.

If you need additional support in completing the form or changing your appointment, you can contact Public Health at 519-514-1499 or via email at PHECOVIDIMMS@regionofwaterloo.ca.

Link to referral form: https://survey123.arcgis.com/share/9c7e92f2753e41319272ebdd502cbbcf

*Please note the Special Accommodation and Sensory-Safe Clinics offer adult Pfizer (12+) or pediatric Pfizer (5-11) only.
The Special Accommodation Vaccination program is for anyone ages 5-17 who might have difficulty accessing COVID-19 vaccine in other settings because of special needs. Region of Waterloo Public Health has collaborated with KidsAbility to deliver a vaccination clinic that can provide you and your child with a sensory-safe experience and additional supports during immunization.

Who can use the Special Accommodation (Sensory-Safe) Vaccination program?

The program is available for those between the ages of 5-17 years old and are:

- Individuals who have difficulty getting the vaccine in mass immunization clinics because of sensory processing disorders or challenging behaviours.
- Individuals requiring privacy or discretion for vaccination, including those with significant anxiety and fear of needles.
- Parents, caregivers, and other household family members who are eligible to receive COVID-19 vaccines are also welcome to book their vaccinations during the same appointment time.

How can you request an appointment at a Special Accommodation Vaccination (Sensory-Safe) clinic?

- Email phecovidimms@regionofwaterloo.ca or call 519-514-1499 to request a special accommodation appointment.
- You will be sent a link with a referral form to complete.
- The form will ask for details about your child’s special needs and what accommodations they need.
- Our scheduling team will book the appointment at one of the KidsAbility locations based on the information submitted and you will receive confirmation of the appointment.

What to expect for the Special Accommodation clinic?

A number of locations will be customized to ensure a child-friendly environment. This includes providing sensory-friendly clinic options such as reduced noise and reduced bright lights, and setting up clinics to offer private spaces so you can be with your child when they receive the vaccine. The clinic allows extra time between appointments meaning less movement and more time for individual immunizations, questions and counselling if needed.

Questions?

If you have questions about the COVID-19 vaccine, please speak with your primary care provider. You can also find more information on the Region of Waterloo website.