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## MEDIA RELEASE

## December 14, 2023

## CK Public Health Urges Vaccination for Respiratory Virus Protection

The Acting Medical Officer of Health for CK Public Health, Dr. Shanker Nesathurai, wants to highlight how important it is to get vaccinated during the respiratory season. With a close eye on respiratory virus activity, CK Public Health wants to remind everyone to take steps to keep themselves and their family safe.

As we approach the holiday season, getting vaccinated for influenza, COVID-19, and RSV if eligible, is particularly important. Being up to date on vaccination is crucial in safeguarding our communities especially when heading into the winter season, where more people are gathering indoors.

"It's not too late to get your vaccines and ensure the safety of your families and communities during this festive season," says Dr. Nesathurai. "By taking these preventive measures, we can enjoy a safe and happy holiday season while minimizing the risk of respiratory infections."

With COVID-19 once again surging in Ontario, and trends indicating a rise in hospitalizations in the coming weeks, the more individuals that receive vaccinations and prioritize their well-being, the more capacity our hospitals will possess to administer crucial care to those in need.

Influenza vaccines are available at participating pharmacies, physician offices and community health centers. COVID-19 vaccines are available at participating pharmacies as well as at the CK Public Health clinic.

For more information on CK Public Health COVID-19 vaccine clinics, please visit the CK Public Health website at <u>www.CKPublicHealth.com</u> or call 519.355.1071. To view the Respiratory Surveillance Bulletin for more information on local respiratory virus activity, please visit <u>www.CKPublicHealth.com/covid-19/respiratory-surveillance</u>.

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