

MEDIA RELEASE

Oct 13, 2026

Don't Wait: CK Public Health Urges Residents to Plan for Fall Vaccinations

During the fall and winter months, respiratory illnesses such as COVID-19, influenza (flu), and Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) circulate throughout Chatham-Kent. While many people experience mild symptoms, these infections can lead to serious illness, hospitalization, and even death for older adults and those with underlying medical conditions.

"Vaccination remains one of the most effective ways to protect yourself and those around you from serious respiratory illness," said Dr. Shanker Nesathurai, Medical Officer of Health for CK Public Health.

As respiratory illness season approaches, residents are encouraged to get vaccinated. For the general public, COVID-19 and flu vaccines are expected to be available beginning **October 26, 2026**.

Residents may be able to receive their vaccines through their primary care provider, local pharmacy, the MobileCare Bus, Bridgecare or CK Public Health clinics, depending on vaccine eligibility and availability.

Information about vaccine eligibility, where to get vaccinated, clinic schedules, and booking options for COVID-19, flu, and RSV vaccines is available at www.ckphu.com/respiratory-illness.

-30-

Media Contact:

Jacquie Cartwright

Community Outreach & Public Relations Officer, CK Public Health

ckphucommunications@chatham-kent.ca