

**April 21, 2021**

## **COVID-19 Vaccine Eligibility Update for the Southwestern Public Health Region**

The following groups have been added to the eligibility for the COVID-19 Vaccine in our region.

- **Adults aged 50 and older residing in an N5H postal code**
  - Eligible to book through participating pharmacy (as 40+), participating primary care, and Southwestern Public Health's mass immunization clinics in Tillsonburg, St. Thomas & Woodstock.
  - Proof of age and residence is required to access appointments at Southwestern Public Health's mass immunization clinics.
- **Adults aged 16 and older who have one of the identified High-Risk Conditions below, plus one primary essential caregiver:**
  - Obesity (BMI over 40)
  - Other treatments causing immunosuppression (e.g. chemotherapy, immunity weakening medications)
  - Intellectual or developmental disabilities (e.g. Down Syndrome)

Individuals eligible because of a treatment they are taking should speak to their treating provider to determine the most appropriate timing for administration of the first dose of vaccine. Written documentation or proof of an eligible health condition is **not** required from a healthcare provider. Self-attestation will be accepted.

In addition, one primary essential caregiver for an individual with an eligible high risk health condition is now also eligible to receive the COVID-19 vaccine. Primary essential caregivers are individuals who provide regular and sustained assistance with personal care and/or activities of daily living. For clarity, if the individual with the eligible health condition cannot receive the vaccine (ex. under the age of 16), the primary essential caregiver is still eligible.

**Need help? Adults aged 75 or older** who need help booking an appointment can sign up for support at [forms.swpublichealth.ca/COVID-19-Help-List](https://forms.swpublichealth.ca/COVID-19-Help-List). Visit [www.swpublichealth.ca/eligibility](https://www.swpublichealth.ca/eligibility) for a full listing and how to book an appointment.