



MEMO: Update on Regional Prioritization of COVID-19 Vaccine

January 27, 2021

Huron Perth Public Health, Middlesex-London Health, and Southwestern Public Health will provide regular updates on the eligibility criteria for recipients of the COVID-19 vaccine in their respective regions.

The Ministry of Health, through the guidance of the provincial COVID-19 Vaccine Task Force led by General Rick Hillier, directs the allocation of the vaccine. Vaccine supply differs by region. Given scarce vaccine supply, a regional **COVID-19 Vaccine Prioritization Advisory Committee** has been struck to help inform the public health units decisions regarding further prioritization when necessary. For more information on the COVID-19 Vaccine Prioritization Advisory Committee, please visit the Middlesex-London Health Unit website at <https://www.healthunit.com/covid-19-vaccine-prioritization>.

Supply Constraints

The only product currently available in the region is the Pfizer-BioNtech COVID-19 vaccine. Due to manufacturing delays, no additional product is anticipated in the region before the week of February 1, 2021 at the earliest. **The significant reduction in supply has resulted in further prioritization.**

Current Provincial Direction on Prioritization

As a result of these delays, on January 25, 2021 the province [directed](#) that all first doses must be prioritized for residents of long-term care, high-risk retirement, and First Nations elder care homes. The target date for delivering vaccine to these individuals is February 5, 2021.

Additional Regional Direction on Prioritization

Given provincial direction and the limited number of doses that are available regionally, only the following people are eligible to receive the first dose of the vaccine, effective immediately. Eligibility will be reviewed weekly and will be dependent on vaccine supply and Provincial direction.

ELIGIBLE FOR FIRST-DOSE:

- Long-term care home residents, as defined by the Ministry of Long-Term Care
- High-risk retirement homes residents, as defined by the Ministry for Seniors and Accessibility
 - Co-located with long-term care homes
 - Containing a memory unit
 - Identified as Red or Yellow by the Retirement Homes Regulatory Authority (RHRA)

ELIGIBLE FOR END-OF-DAY DOSES

At the end of each clinic, there may be a small amount of additional vaccine available that is to be used to avoid wastage.

Eligible for additional vaccine available at end-of-day during a mobile clinic, in the following order:

1. Long-term care or high-risk retirement home staff*, first dose
2. Long-term care or high-risk retirement home staff*, second dose if appropriate
3. Essential caregiver

* LHIN, Hospital, Primary Care and Paramedic Services staff who are directly providing on-site support to long-term care and retirement homes in outbreak, and have committed to a week or more of attending the facility, are considered as long-term care or high-risk retirement home staff.

NOT CURRENTLY ELIGIBLE FOR FIRST-DOSE

No other individuals are currently eligible for the vaccine in this region. This includes the following exclusions:

- Individuals with active respiratory symptoms.
- Independent living facilities, seniors' apartments, hospice sites, and adult day programs.
- Healthcare workers not explicitly listed in the eligible groups.

SECOND-DOSE SCHEDULE

Consistent with the National Advisory Committee on Immunization (NACI), some jurisdictions may maximize the number of individuals benefiting from a first dose of Pfizer-BioNtech vaccine by delaying the second dose until further supplies of the vaccine become available, preferably within 42 days of receipt of the first dose.

Given the scarce vaccine supply, the Province has directed the following:

- All second doses for residents of long-term care, retirement and First Nations elder care homes will be delivered at 21-27 days after their first dose.
- All second-doses of for all other groups will be rescheduled up to 42 days after their first dose.

Update on Western Fair Agriplex Clinic

The Western Fair Agriplex Clinic is currently closed due to the reductions in vaccine supply. The clinic will re-open to deliver second doses within the 42-day interval. Individual awaiting their second dose of vaccine who are not residents of long-term care, retirement and First Nations elder care homes will be contacted and notified of a new appointment time.