



Oxford • Elgin • St. Thomas

Elgin St. Thomas Site

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October 9, 2020

From the Infectious & Communicable Disease Team at Southwestern Public Health to primary care providers in Elgin County, Oxford County and the City of St. Thomas

Influenza Update for Fall 2020

Public Health Influenza Clinics

The Ministry has announced it is investing significantly into this year's flu vaccination campaign across Ontario that includes vaccine administration from pharmacies, health care providers and public health. Southwestern Public Health vaccination clinics are for children aged 5 and under and their caregivers ([see attached patient resource](#)). **These clinics are by appointment only.**

Vaccine Allotments

Woodstock and St. Thomas have received their first allotment of vaccine for primary care providers. These are expected to arrive at primary care offices the week of October 5th.

High Dose Flu Shot

Each health unit has received a supply of high dose flu vaccines based on geographic allocation. Due to limited supply, it may not be possible for everyone aged 65+ to receive a high dose vaccine. Please discourage seniors from declining a flu vaccine if the high dose version is not available.

COVID-19 Guidance

Refer to PHAC's [Guidance for Influenza Vaccine Delivery in the Presence of COVID-19](#). During the COVID-19 pandemic, individuals with suspected, probable or confirmed COVID-19, and those who are close contacts of a case, should not attend immunization appointments or clinics during their period of isolation.

Side effects of the flu vaccine (fever, headache, fatigue) can look similar to COVID-19 symptoms. Remind patients these if these reactions occur, they usually begin soon after vaccination and last 1-2 days. If symptoms persist, encourage them to seek health care advice.

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