

**Elgin St. Thomas Site**

Administrative Office  
1230 Talbot Street  
St. Thomas, ON  
N5P 1G9

**Woodstock Site**

410 Buller Street  
Woodstock, ON  
N4S 4N2



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**From the Office of Dr. Joyce Lock, Medical Officer of Health, Southwestern Public Health**

## **Update about Regional Prioritization of COVID-19 Vaccines**

Dear Long Term Care Home and Retirement Home Colleagues:

Southwestern Public Health is committed to bringing you regular updates on the delivery of the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 mRNA vaccine to the residents and staff of long-term care homes and retirement homes in our region. At this time, Southwestern Public Health has not received information from the Ministry of Health on timelines for the arrival of the more transportable Moderna COVID-19 vaccine to our region.

Please find the most recent information below.

### **Provincial prioritization of the COVID-19 Vaccine (Phase 1)**

The Ontario 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. 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.

At this time, the General has indicated that all first doses must be prioritized for long-term care and high-risk retirement home residents, staff, and essential caregivers.

### **At the Western Fair Agriplex Clinic:**

- Long-Term Care Home staff
- 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
- Retirement home staff
- Immunizers of the COVID-19 vaccine (immunizers are vaccinated to limit the potential for transmission between facilities)

- Individuals who have previously booked appointments

#### **Through mobile clinics:**

- Long-term care home residents
- High-risk retirement homes co-located with long-term care homes, and those with a memory unit

*No other groups are currently eligible for the vaccine in this region.*

#### **Roll out of vaccine in the SWPH Region**

The provincial goal is to vaccinate all long-term care and high-risk retirement home residents by February 15, 2021.

We are thrilled to inform you that the SWPH region is on target to meet or exceed this goal. 340 residents at Maple Manor Tillsonburg, PeopleCare Tavistock, Extendicare Port Stanley, Caessant Care Bonnie Place St. Thomas and Woodingford Lodge Woodstock were vaccinated this week. Further Long-Term Care Homes will follow on Monday and following those we will move to the Retirement Homes in the region.

Please ensure that your consent forms are completed, and that you have informed SWPH of your primary contact.

#### **Update on immunization of staff at the Western Fair District Agriplex Clinic**

Thank you for your efforts in encouraging your staff to get their COVID-19 vaccine at the Western Fair District Agriplex Clinic. **PLEASE NOTE: given the need to prioritize doses for LTCH residents, bookings at the Agriplex are temporarily on pause for staff.** Previously booked appointments and second dose appointments will continue as scheduled. When new supply is secured, we will send an update on when these bookings can resume.

#### **Update on immunization of essential caregivers**

Vaccination appointments at LHSC's Western Fair District Agriplex Clinic are *not* currently available for essential caregivers. You will be notified once additional vaccine is available, and you will receive additional information about the process through which essential caregivers can book an appointment.

Thank you for your tremendous work keeping your residents safe and more recently supporting your staff and your residents with the preparations required to begin the mass immunization process. We value your partnership and all your hard work during trying times.

**Dr. Joyce Lock**  
**Medical Officer of Health**  
[jlock@swpublichealth.ca](mailto:jlock@swpublichealth.ca)  
1-800-922-0096, ext.1255

**Jaime Fletcher**  
**Program Manager, COVID19 Mass Vaccination Taskforce**  
[jfletcher@swpublichealth.ca](mailto:jfletcher@swpublichealth.ca)  
1-800-922-0096, ext. 1234