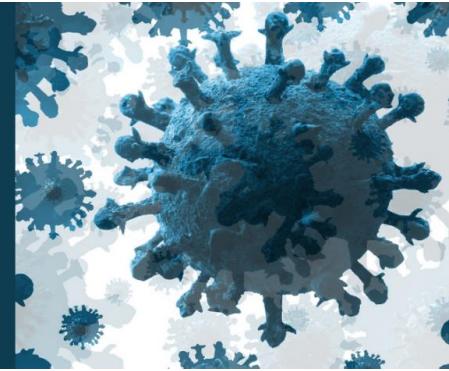


COVID-19 Immunization Update

For Health Care Providers in Oxford County, Elgin County, and the City of St. Thomas



Week of February 22, 2021

An Update from Dr. Joyce Lock, Medical Officer of Health

Please share with staff as appropriate.

REMINDER: SWPH COVID-19 Vaccination Weekly e-Newsletter

- Southwestern Public Health requires all health care providers and organizations to sign up for our weekly COVID-19 immunization e-newsletter updates. This is the primary way immunization information will be shared across the region. If you have not already signed up, please do so here: <http://eepurl.com/hnoSX5>.
- *Please note: we are legally obliged to request opt-in for this e-newsletter.*

What You Need to Know this Week:

- New groups have been added to the vaccine eligibility list this week, including:
 - Patient-facing health care workers involved in the COVID-19 response
 - COVID-19 Assessment Centers, including Mobile Testing Teams
 - COVID-19 vaccine clinics and mobile immunization teams
 - COVID-19 Isolation Centers
 - COVID-19 Laboratory Services
 - Medical First Responders
 - ORNGE, paramedics, firefighters providing medical first response
 - Patient-facing community health care workers serving specialized populations including:
 - Needle exchange/syringe programs & supervised consumption and treatment services
 - Aboriginal Health Access Centers, Indigenous Community Health Centers, Indigenous Interprofessional Primary Care Teams, and Indigenous Nurse Practitioner-Led Clinics
 - Community Health Centers serving disproportionately affected communities and/or communities experiencing highest burden of health, social and economic impacts from COVID-19
 - Home and community care health care workers caring for recipients of chronic homecare and seniors in congregate living facilities or providing hands-on care to COVID-19 patients in the community.
- Eligible groups will receive information from their workplace or facility on how to book an appointment through the Western Fair Agriplex once the information has been uploaded to the provincial system.
- SWPH continues to administer first doses in eligible retirement home residents this week, while eligible health care workers and essential care givers are being vaccinated through the Agriplex.

- SWPH received an ultra-low freezer this week, which will allow us to store Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine locally – a first shipment is expected during the week of March 15th. Until then, SWPH's teams will continue to decant vaccine from the supply at the Agriplex in partnership with London Health Sciences Centre and the Middlesex-London Health Unit.
- SWPH continues to promote our COVID-19 Vaccine Information Line and web page to help keep our community members informed on the rollout of vaccine in Oxford, Elgin and the City of St. Thomas. These resources are updated frequently with details on vaccine availability, eligibility, and how to book an appointment for eligible groups.
 - 519-631-4125 (Elgin)
 - 519-533-4560 (Oxford)
 - www.swpublichealth.ca/covid19vaccine