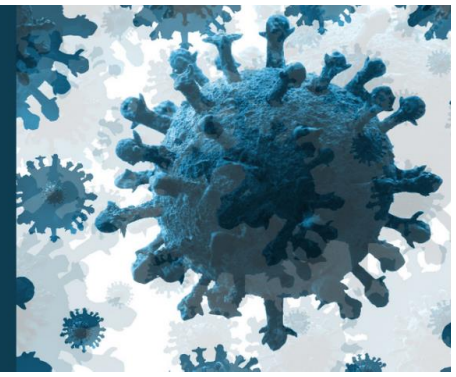


# COVID-19 Immunization Update

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



September 17, 2021

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

*Please share with staff as appropriate.*

### What You Need to Know This Week

#### 1. REMINDER: MEDICAL VACCINATION EXEMPTIONS

- Due to [Directive #6](#), primary care providers may receive requests for notes to document medical exemptions for COVID-19 vaccination. **Medical exemptions are expected to be infrequent and should be supported by expert consultation.**
- If you have patients that wish to decline vaccination for a non-medical reason, please be aware that there are no COVID-19 vaccine exemption affidavits for adults.
- At present, there is no standardized form that needs to be used to document an individual's medical exemption.
- Additional guidance and resources related to COVID-19 immunization doctors' notes are available from the [Ontario Medical Association](#) and [the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario](#).

#### 2. THIRD DOSES – EXPANDED ELIGIBILITY

- On September 14, [Ontario expanded eligibility](#) for who can receive a third COVID-19 vaccine dose.
- [Backgrounder](#) on the expanded eligibility.
- [NACI Rapid Review](#) on additional dose for immunocompromised individuals.
- Referrals are required from a medical professional overseeing an individual's eligible health condition. Access the referral form for the SWPH region ([link](#)).
- **Important to identify these as a third dose in a primary series – not a booster shot.**
- 8-week interval for third dose; exception is Long-Term Care which is 5 months.

#### 3. SWPH REGION VACCINATION RATES

- Data from the Ministry of Health as of September 14:
  - Percentage of SWPH 12+ population with at least one dose: 84%
  - Percentage of SWPH 12+ population with both doses: 78%

#### 4. ONTARIO VACCINATION RATES

- **As of September 14, 84.4% have had at least one dose, and 78.1% are fully vaccinated.**
- **ACTION:** There is still much work ahead to reach the 90% target for at least one dose. Continue to push creative and innovative clinics to reach those who have not yet been vaccinated.