

# COVID-19 Immunization Update

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



October 8, 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. PUBLIC HEALTH ONTARIO GUIDANCE FOR POST-VACCINE GBS

- Consultation with a neurologist, an immunologist with a special interest in vaccinology or with the [SIC](#) Network is recommended for an informed discussion regarding subsequent dose administration following Guillain-Barré Syndrome (GBS) as an adverse event following immunization (AEFI).
- If GBS associated with receipt of a viral vector (e.g., AstraZeneca), further receipt of a viral vector is not recommended given the [observation in Canada](#) that the rate of GBS after AstraZeneca is higher than the rate of GBS after an mRNA vaccine.
- The number of observed reports of GBS following viral vector vaccination is higher than what would be expected in the general population
- International Resources:
  - [NACI](#): Does not provide specific recommendations regarding second doses after an episode of GBS post-COVID-19 vaccination.
  - [Public Health England](#): Recommends someone who has had post-vaccination GBS should still receive a second dose, citing a causal link between COVID-19 vaccination and GBS has not been proven.
  - [Center for Disease Control](#): Recommends individuals with a history of GBS receive any current FDA-authorized COVID-19 vaccine but suggests offering an mRNA vaccine rather than a viral vector.

#### 2. GO-VAXX BUS COMING TO ELGIN COUNTY

- Ontario's GO-VAXX Bus is scheduled to be in Elgin County for Mobile COVID-19 Vaccination. Details at [www.swpublichealth.ca/covid19vaccine#govaxxbus](http://www.swpublichealth.ca/covid19vaccine#govaxxbus)
  - October 14 from 10am-1pm at East Elgin Community Complex (Aylmer)
  - October 14 from 2pm-5pm at Malahide Community Place (Springfield)

Southwestern Public Health  
[www.swpublichealth.ca](http://www.swpublichealth.ca)  
1-800-922-0096



### 3. SWPH REGION VACCINATION RATES

- Data from the Ministry of Health as of October 7:
  - Percentage of SWPH 12+ population with at least one dose: 85.9%
  - Percentage of SWPH 12+ population with both doses: 81.3%

### 4. PROOF OF VACCINATION REQUIRED FOR AGES 12+ AT SPORTS AND RECREATION FACILITIES

- On October 6, SWPH alongside Huron Perth Public Health and Middlesex-London Health Unit, issued a Letter of Instruction to owners and operators of sports and recreation facilities to require proof of vaccination for everyone aged 12+ to enter their indoor facilities.
- The instruction comes into effect on October 31 to allow time for families to plan accordingly.
- Read the [Letter of Instruction](#) and [news release](#) for details.

### 5. REMINDER: BEGIN PREPARATION FOR 5–11-YEAR-OLD VACCINATIONS

- Anticipated Health Canada approval in November or December.
- Although this age cohort is not yet eligible for vaccination, the Province has indicated all regions begin preparations to welcome this cohort soon.
- **ACTION:** Public health units, pharmacy, and primary care are all advised to consider creative clinics and opportunities to reach this population when the time comes.

### 6. PFIZER RECOMMENDED FOR ADULTS AGED 18-24

- On September 29, the [Chief Medical Officer of Health released a statement](#) advising the use of Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine for individuals aged 18-24 instead of Moderna, effective immediately
- This is a direct result of Ontario's adverse events following immunization (AEFI) surveillance which saw an increase in very rare instances of myocarditis/pericarditis following vaccination with Moderna in this age cohort.
- **Individuals 18-24 can still accept Moderna by request and with informed consent.**

### 7. RAPID ANTIGEN TESTS AT PHARMACY

- Primary care providers are receiving questions regarding rapid antigen test availability in the community.
- **ACTION:** Pharmacy owners/operators to follow up with [Melanie Everets-Rodrigues](#) to confirm if your pharmacy stocks rapid antigen tests for self-administration by asymptomatic patients.