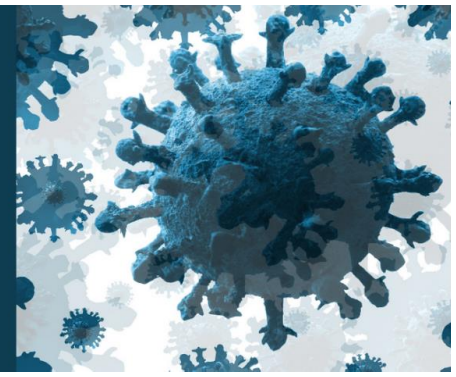


COVID-19 Immunization Update

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
 - 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
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.