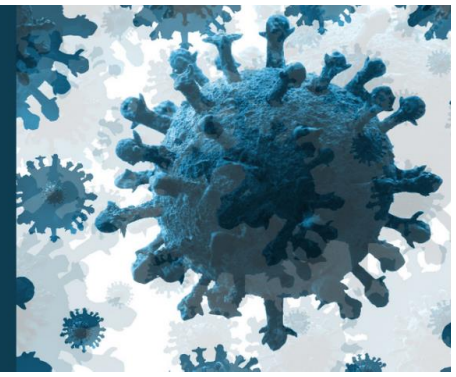


COVID-19 Immunization Update

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



October 15, 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. SWPH REGION VACCINATION RATES

- Data from the Ministry of Health as of October 14:
 - Percentage of SWPH 12+ population with at least one dose: 86.4%
 - Percentage of SWPH 12+ population with both doses: 82.1%

2. OUTREACH TO UNVACCINATED ONTARIANS

- As part of its Last Mile strategy, the Ministry of Health is using an automated voice message service to reach the 720,000 eligible Ontarians who have yet to receive a COVID-19 vaccine. Information is provided for how and where to get a vaccine in their community.
- In the Southwestern Public Health region, there are 9,000 individuals who are being contact through this service. **Important to note that these are non-rostered individuals (e.g. rostered patients will not receive a call).**

3. VAXFACTS: RESOURCES FOR VACCINE HESITANCY

- Scarborough Health Network's VaxFacts has valuable resources for individuals who are vaccine hesitant.
- **In the Southwestern Public Health region, there are nearly 12,000 citizens aged 12-29 who have not had a first dose and may benefit from discussions regarding vaccine hesitancy.**
- [Visit the website](#) for printable posters, FAQs and guides for productive conversations to aid in your patient discussions.

4. VACCINE CONSULT SERVICE FOR YOUTH & FAMILIES

- SickKids hospital has launched a Vaccine Consult Service for individuals and families to speak with a Registered Nurse if they have questions about vaccines for youth.

Southwestern Public Health
www.swpublichealth.ca
1-800-922-0096



- Appointments are available Monday to Friday. [Visit the website](#) for details to share with your patients.

5. THIRD DOSE ELIGIBILITY & GUIDANCE

- The Ministry has [expanded eligibility for third doses](#) to additional high-risk populations for added protection against the Delta variant.
- [The recommendation](#) includes guidance on who is eligible, immunosuppressant prescriptions that are now eligible, and process for third dose administration to high-risk retirement homes by pharmacists.

6. INFLUENZA ALLOCATIONS

- Until November 1, influenza allocations are provided for high-risk clients and healthcare workers only.
- **ACTION:** If you have not yet picked up your initial allocation (including high-dose vaccine), please do so at your earliest convenience.