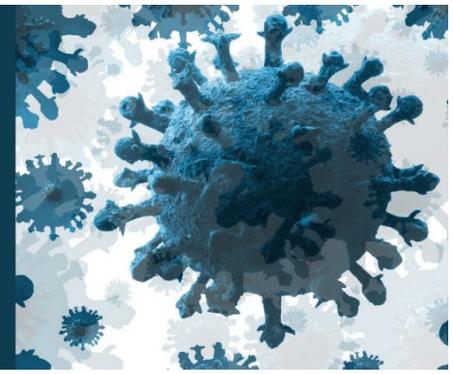


COVID-19 Immunization Update

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



October 29, 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 28:
 - Percentage of SWPH 12+ population with at least one dose: 86.5%
 - Percentage of SWPH 12+ population with both doses: 83%
- **To curb the spread of the Delta variant, 90-95% vaccine coverage is required.**

2. NACI STATEMENT: BOOSTER DOSES IN CANADA

- On October 29, NACI issued interim guidance on booster COVID-19 vaccine doses in Canada.
- At this time, NACI strongly recommends that:
 - Populations at highest risk of waning protection following their primary series and at highest risk of severe COVID-19 illness **should** be offered a booster dose of an mRNA COVID-19 vaccine at least 6 months after completing their primary series. Populations include:
 - Adults living in long-term care or other congregate settings that provide care for seniors
 - Adults 80 years of age or older
 - Additional recommendations outline other key populations who may be at increased risk of lower protection over time since vaccination who **may** be offered a booster.
- Refer to the [full statement](#) and [summary](#) for details.

3. CHANGES TO PUBLIC HEALTH MASS IMMUNIZATION CLINICS

- SWPH is expecting new eligibility details and cohorts will be shared in the weeks ahead. No new information is available at this time.
- In preparation, SWPH is changing how it operates its COVID-19 mass immunization clinics:

- Effective November 8, moving St. Thomas vaccine operations back to Memorial Arena in the auditorium space; 1230 Talbot to stop offering COVID-19 vaccine on-site.
 - Beginning the week of November 1, appointments will be required. Walk in hours will be suspended until further notice.
 - Expanded capacity to begin at Woodstock's Goff Hall.
 - Evening and Saturday clinics to begin when children aged five to 11 become eligible.
- More details here: <https://bit.ly/3BrPnvH>

4. UPDATED GUIDANCE FOR ROUTINE IMMUNIZATION SERVICES

- The Ministry updated this guidance on October 28 to include program extensions for specific vaccinations, removal of the Universal Influenza Immunization Program section in the guidance, and a new section on COVID-19 vaccination added.
- Refer to [the guidance](#) for details.

5. INFLUENZA IMMUNIZATION FOR GENERAL POPULATION

- Health care providers are reminded to continue to order flu vaccine by Monday each week. Quadrivalent vaccine is available for order. There are also still doses of high risk/high dose vaccines for those over 65 years of age available for ordering at this time.
- As SWPH is focusing its effort on delivering COVID-19 vaccine to the community, the health unit will not be offering any public influenza clinics for the 2021/22 season.
- Anyone 6 months to up to 2 years of age will be directed to their primary care provider for a flu shot.
- If a child this age does not have a primary care provider, their parent/caregiver is welcomed to call public health at 1-800-922-0096 to request an appointment, which may be arranged on a limited basis.
- Anyone aged 2 and older is encouraged to visit a participating pharmacy or their primary care provider to arrange a flu shot.