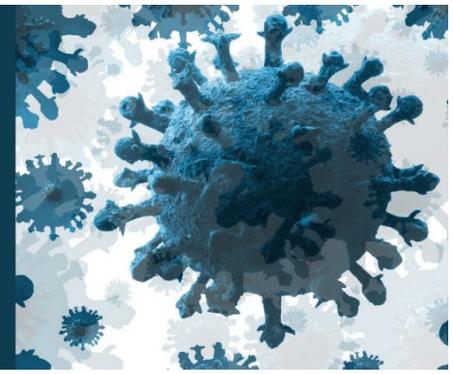


# COVID-19 Immunization Update

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



November 19, 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. AGES 5-11 ELIGIBLE FOR COVID-19 VACCINE

- [Health Canada today announced](#) approval for ages 5-11 for the COVID-19 vaccine. Specifically, it has approved the Pfizer-BioNTech Comirnaty vaccine with a paediatric dose. Details below:
  - Aged 5 to 11 approved, including those turning 5 in 2021
  - Paediatric formulation is 10mg, and provides a 90.7% efficacy in this age group. **This is a NEW product that is packaged and shipped separately from the adult formulation.**
  - Minimum 8-week interval between first and second dose, which has shown a benefit in both the longer-term efficacy and reduction in myocarditis/pericarditis risk
  - Co-administration is not advised at this time; this is due to the importance of monitoring for adverse events/side effects. Report all adverse events/side effects immediately.
- Appointments are required. Local appointments in the Southwestern Public Health region are expected to be available on or after Thursday, November 24th through [www.covidvaccineLM.ca](http://www.covidvaccineLM.ca). This date is pending vaccine supply arrival at the health unit.
- Details for when the appointments for children will be available on the [www.covidvaccineLM.ca](http://www.covidvaccineLM.ca) website and the provincial booking system are expected sometime on Monday, November 22<sup>nd</sup>.
- The province also shared a statement: <https://news.ontario.ca/en/statement/1001189/ontario-ready-to-begin-vaccinating-children-aged-5-to-11-when-supply-arrives>
- Final Ministry Guidance has not yet been published at the time of this e-newsletter distribution. **Guidance is required before vaccinations for this age group can begin in Ontario.**

#### 2. RESOURCES: AGES 5-11 COVID-19 VACCINATION

- Visit [www.swpublichealth.ca/covid19vaccine](http://www.swpublichealth.ca/covid19vaccine) for more information, resources to support informed consent, and more. **This webpage will be updated with additional resources over the coming days.**
- Share this video with patients/clients to visualize the [COVID-19 Vaccine Family Clinic Experience](#).
- Share this video of Dr. Theresa Tam explaining the [Health Canada approvals, safety and efficacy](#).
- More resources to follow to support you in your discussions with patients/clients.

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



### 3. REMINDER: COVID-19 VACCINATION GUIDANCE FOR OTHER YOUTH AGES

- Ages 12 to 17 must only accept the adult dosage of Pfizer-BioNTech (Comirnaty) vaccine, [as advised by the Ontario Ministry of Health](#), until further notice
- Ages 18 to 24 are recommended to accept Pfizer-BioNTech (Comirnaty) vaccine, [as advised by the Ontario Ministry of Health](#), unless they request Moderna (Spikevax) vaccine through informed consent

### 4. REMINDER: THIRD DOSES IN ONTARIO

- On November 3, [Ontario expanded eligibility](#) for third doses to include:
- Intervals between last and third dose differ depending on reason for eligibility:
  - Eligible due to medical condition – give third dose a min. of 8 weeks since second dose
  - Eligible for all other reasons – give third dose a min. of 6 months (24 weeks) since second dose
- On November 9, [Health Canada authorized](#) the use of Pfizer-BioNTech for booster doses 6 months after a completed vaccination series for anyone aged 18 or older in Canada. **No action is required** until the Ontario Ministry of Health provides provincial guidance for implementation.

### 5. SWPH REGION VACCINATION RATES

- Data from the Ministry of Health as of November 18:
  - Percentage of SWPH 12+ population with at least one dose: 87.1%
  - Percentage of SWPH 12+ population with both doses: 84.4%
  - Percentage of SWPH 12+ population with three doses: 2.4%
- **To curb the spread of the Delta variant, 90-95% vaccine coverage is required.**

### 6. LOCAL INFLUENZA SUPPLY UPDATE

- Southwestern Public Health **no longer has supply of high dose quadrivalent influenza vaccine**. No further shipments are expected from the Ontario Government Pharmacy.
- Limited doses of Fludax High Dose trivalent vaccine are available for order.
- Sufficient quantities of quadrivalent vaccine remains for the general population. Orders for high dose vaccine received by SWPH from health care providers will be replaced with regular quadrivalent vaccine wherever possible.