

COVID-19 Immunization Update

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



November 26, 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

- Everyone born in 2016 or earlier is now eligible to be vaccinated against COVID-19 in Ontario.
- On November 24, approximately 8,000 paediatric doses of the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine arrived at Southwestern Public Health, and administration to children began the same day.
- More than 3,500 children aged 5-11 have already booked an appointment at a Southwestern Public Health clinic.
- Health Canada and NACI have recommended an 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.
- Ensure vaccination history of the child is reviewed before administration of this vaccine, as co-administration with routine vaccines is not advised within 14 days of vaccination.
- Primary care providers can order and obtain quantities of this vaccine through the health unit. Pharmacies must obtain quantities using their usual channel at the Ministry of Health.

2. VACCINATION CONSENT

- Anyone under the age of 12 seeking a COVID-19 vaccine at a Southwestern Public Health clinic will be required to have parental or guardian consent at the time of their appointment. This is a local health unit decision.
- However, families who have children who are intellectually ready to consent on their own are encouraged to speak with their primary care provider or public health about getting vaccinated.

3. RESOURCES: AGES 5-11 COVID-19 VACCINATION

- Visit www.swpublichealth.ca/covid19vaccine for more information, resources to support informed consent, and more.
- Share this video with patients/clients to visualize the [COVID-19 Vaccine Family Clinic Experience](#).
- NEW! [Patient-facing COVID-19 fact sheet](#)
- NEW! [Rapid Review: Myocarditis/Pericarditis Risks Studies](#)

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



4. THIRD DOSES IN ONTARIO

- The Ministry of Health has advised health units that it will soon expand eligibility of third doses to additional groups. Details will follow as more information is published.

5. SWPH REGION VACCINATION RATES

- Please note, rates have decreased slightly due to updated 2020 Statistics Canada population estimates.
- Data from the Ministry of Health as of November 25:
 - Percentage of SWPH 12+ population with at least one dose: 84.8%
 - Percentage of SWPH 12+ population with both doses: 82.4%
 - Percentage of SWPH 12+ population with three doses: 11.7%
 - Percentage of SWPH 5+ population with at least one dose: 77.4%
 - Percentage of SWPH 5+ population with both doses: 75.0%

6. MONOCLONAL ANTIBODY INFUSION

- Monoclonal antibodies have shown promise in preventing hospitalization by up to 70-80% and severe outcomes if given to the high-risk populations; however, much of the data is from prior to large scale vaccinations, and the emergence of the delta variant.
- **As part of a feasibility study, Hamilton has become the first pilot site for the outpatient administration of these drugs.** Patients will be brought to St. Joseph's Healthcare Charlton if they meet indications for therapy and have a symptom onset of < 7 days.
- **ACTION:** [Access the referral form](#) for those at highest clinical risk – both vaccinated or unvaccinated. Please fax in referrals promptly and patients will be contacted for a clinic appointment, 7 days a week.
- References:
 - Weinreich, D. M. *et al.* *REGEN-COV Antibody Cocktail Clinical Outcomes Study in Covid-19 Outpatients.* <http://medrxiv.org/lookup/doi/10.1101/2021.05.19.21257469> (2021)
doi:[10.1101/2021.05.19.21257469](https://doi.org/10.1101/2021.05.19.21257469).
 - Boyarsky, B. J. *et al.* Antibody Response to 2-Dose SARS-CoV-2 mRNA Vaccine Series in Solid Organ Transplant Recipients. *JAMA* **325**, 2204 (2021).
 - Gupta, A. *et al.* *Early Covid-19 Treatment With SARS-CoV-2 Neutralizing Antibody Sotrovimab.* <http://medrxiv.org/lookup/doi/10.1101/2021.05.27.21257096> (2021)
doi:[10.1101/2021.05.27.21257096](https://doi.org/10.1101/2021.05.27.21257096).
 - RECOVERY Collaborative Group *et al.* *Casirivimab and imdevimab in patients admitted to hospital with COVID-19 (RECOVERY): a randomised, controlled, open-label, platform trial.* <http://medrxiv.org/lookup/doi/10.1101/2021.06.15.21258542> (2021)
doi:[10.1101/2021.06.15.21258542](https://doi.org/10.1101/2021.06.15.21258542).
 - Rochwerg, B. *et al.* A living WHO guideline on drugs for covid-19. *BMJ* m3379 (2020)
doi:[10.1136/bmj.m3379](https://doi.org/10.1136/bmj.m3379).