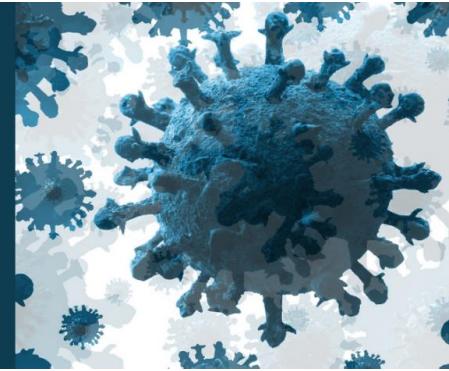


COVID-19 Immunization Update

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



December 2, 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. RESOURCES: COVID-19 VACCINATION

- www.swpublichealth.ca/covid19vaccine
- [Patient-facing COVID-19 fact sheet](#)
- [Rapid Review: Myocarditis/Pericarditis Risks Studies](#)
- [SWPH aftercare sheet for ages 5+ \(including adults\) // Simplified version with graphics](#)
- [Ministry of Health vaccine information sheet for children \(5-11\)](#)
- [Updated: Ministry of Health COVID-19 vaccine administration guidance](#) (includes new guidance regarding Janssen COVID-19 vaccine, and pediatric Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine; new list of ingredients for all vaccines). Note: Janssen is available within Ontario for anyone who declines an mRNA vaccine and who gives informed consent.
- [Updated: Ministry of Health guidance for COVID-19 vaccination in special populations](#) (includes new guidance regarding COVID-19 vaccination for children, adolescents, and young adults)

2. THIRD DOSES IN ONTARIO

- Today, [Ontario expanded eligibility of third doses to ages 50 and older](#). Appointments for this age group will be available in Ontario starting Monday, December 13.
- [Third dose guidance](#) still adheres to the following intervals:
 - Administer at a minimum of 6 months (24 weeks) since the individual's most-recent COVID-19 vaccination
 - If eligible due to a medical condition, administer at a minimum of 8 weeks since the individual's most-recent COVID-19 vaccination; [a third-dose referral](#) completed by a health care provider is required
- There is also speculation that NACI may further expand its recommendation for third doses to younger groups. Public health does not have further information at this time.

3. POST-VACCINATION MEASURES

- It is imperative that all individuals who receive a COVID-19 vaccination are reminded to **continue following all other public health measures**, particularly as new variants of concern emerge.
- Provide rationale: "This is to protect those around them who are not fully vaccinated, and to prevent further community spread."
- This includes, but is not limited to:
 - Practice diligent hand hygiene
 - Wear a face covering, especially indoors, even in small gatherings (e.g. in other people's homes)
 - Maintain physical distance and avoid crowded spaces
 - Limit time spent indoors with people you do not live with

4. SWPH REGION VACCINATION RATES

- Data from the Ministry of Health as of November 30:
 - Percentage of SWPH 12+ population with at least one dose: 85%
 - Percentage of SWPH 12+ population with both doses: 82.7%
 - Percentage of SWPH 12+ population with three doses: 15.2%
 - **Percentage of SWPH 5+ population with at least one dose: 77.9%**
 - **Percentage of SWPH 5+ population with both doses: 75.3%**
- On December 2, [Ontario announced](#) it reached a vaccination milestone, with 90% of ages 12+ having at least one dose.

5. REMINDER: 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.