

# COVID-19 Immunization Update

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



January 21, 2022

## An Update from Dr. Joyce Lock, Medical Officer of Health

*Please share with staff as appropriate.*

### What You Need to Know This Week

#### 1. AUTOMATED REMINDERS

- Ontario's Chief Medical Officer of Health has begun issuing pre-recorded messages to eligible Ontarians who have yet to receive their third COVID-19 vaccine dose.
- Southwestern Public Health will also reach out to individuals locally, starting with those aged 50 and older, to encourage them to book a booster vaccine appointment.

#### 2. FOCUS: BOOSTER DOSES FOR AGES 50 AND OLDER

- More than 26,000 local residents aged 50 or older have received two – but not yet three – doses of COVID-19 vaccine.
- **ACTION:** Proactively reach out to your own patients or clients to remind them to book their booster as soon as possible. Currently, there are hundreds of appointments available through public health, making it easier to find an appointment.

#### 3. FOCUS: FIRST AND SECOND DOSES FOR AGES 5-11

- The Southwestern Public Health region is currently the 4<sup>th</sup> lowest in the province in vaccine uptake for ages 5-11.
- Beginning January 25 and running for three weeks, the St. Thomas Memorial Arena and Woodstock Goff Hall clinics offer evening and weekend hours to accommodate families. Appointments are available by visiting [www.covidvaccinelm.ca](http://www.covidvaccinelm.ca).
- **ACTION:** Proactively reach out to your own patients or clients who have children in this age group to encourage them to book their vaccination, particularly in an effort to protect their child from illness, and those around them who may be immunocompromised, too young for vaccination, or peers/teachers in school settings.

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



#### 4. VACCINATION AFTER A COVID-19 INFECTION

- NACI is expected to soon publish guidance for how long an individual should wait after recovery from a COVID-19 infection before accepting a COVID-19 vaccine to maximize immune response.
- Currently, there is no global consensus on the timeline for this.
- In the interim, Dr. Kieran Moore has recommended individuals wait 30 days after recovery from a COVID-19 infection; however, an individual can choose to be vaccinated sooner – or later – as long as they have recovered and are no longer in isolation or symptomatic, as reflected in the current medical directive.

#### 5. PHARMACY: VACCINATION FOR RETIREMENT HOMES

- 75% of local Long-Term Care and 33.3% of local Retirement Homes are in active outbreak.
- **ACTION:** Please encourage local pharmacy teams to evaluate how they can increase their ability to administer vaccines to retirement home residents and staff.

#### 6. REMINDER: FOURTH DOSES FOR SPECIAL POPULATIONS

- The Ministry has updated its guidance on third doses to include fourth dose guidance for special populations, - including residents of Long-Term Care and Retirement Homes, and those with select immunocompromising health conditions.
- View the updated guidance [here](#).
- Individuals who qualify for a fourth dose are welcomed to book an appointment at one of our mass vaccination clinics at [www.covidvaccinelm.ca](http://www.covidvaccinelm.ca). Many appointments are currently available.

#### 7. SWPH REGION VACCINATION RATES

- Data from the Ministry of Health as of January 19:
  - Percentage of SWPH 5+ population with at least one dose: 82.4%
  - Percentage of SWPH 5+ population with both doses: 77.2%
  - Percentage of SWPH 50+ population with three doses: 60.36%