

Public Health Update from Southwestern Public Health



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

September 19, 2023

An Update from Dr. Ninh Tran, Medical Officer of Health at Southwestern Public Health

Public Health: What You Need to Know

RESPIRATORY UPDATES

ONTARIO'S RESPIRATORY VACCINE ROLLOUT

- On September 14, [Ontario announced its rollout plans](#) for RSV, Influenza, and COVID-19 XBB vaccines.

COVID-19 VACCINATION

- On September 12, [NACI published a statement regarding the new formulation COVID-19 vaccine to target XBB](#), the most widely circulating variant. The majority of the first shipment to SWPH will be administered to high-risk populations, such as those living in LTCHs.
- In addition to pharmacies and primary care offices, SWPH will be hosting vaccination clinics in the near future. These clinics are intended for eligible individuals at highest risk of complications as determined by the Ministry of Health. Information will be posted at www.swpublichealth.ca/covid19 as it becomes available.

VACCINE ORDERING: RESPIRATORY

- All information in this chart is updated as of September 19, 2023, and may be subject to change.

	Available to order from SWPH	Date of availability	Eligibility	Ordering Information / Order form
COVID19 vaccine	Moderna XBB – Not yet Bivalent B4/5 - Yes – office / Organization must have COVAXOn access and ability to manage inventory in COVAXOn	Moderna XBB – Expected late September / Early October TBD Bivalent B4/5 – Available now.	Expect prioritization related to vaccine supply – highest risk groups, health care workers, and caregivers initially.	COVID-19 Resources for Health Care Providers - Southwestern Public Health (swpublichealth.ca)

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



Influenza vaccine	Yes – but not in stock yet at SWPH. (Expecting late September / early October delivery from Ontario Government Pharmacy)	Auto allocation for hospitals, primary care providers, and Long Term Care Homes, and select prequalified Retirement Homes available on or after Thursday, October 5, 2023. No initial order needed! (No more than 50% of total of what you administered in 2022) Regular orders can begin the week of October 16th .	Fluad® (adjuvanted trivalent) – 65+ only. Fluzone® High-Dose Quadrivalent (high dose quadrivalent) – 65+ only. Fluzone® Quadrivalent and FluLaval® Tetra – anyone 6 months and older. (*Anyone 8 and under with no previous dose get 2 doses a minimum of 28 days apart*).	Vaccine Ordering and Fridge Inspections - Southwestern Public Health (swpublichealth.ca)
RSV (Arexvy®)	Not at present –if approved as publicly funded, believed to be for LTCH patients only.	N/A – awaiting more information from Ministry of Health.	N/A – product approved by Health Canada for 60+.	N/A

FOR PATIENTS: COVID-19 EXPOSURE AND SYMPTOMS GUIDANCE

- Refer to our updated [one-page patient resource](#) for summarized guidance and support when exposed or symptomatic.
- Refer to the provincial [Self Assessment Tool](#) for specific guidance on symptoms, exposures, and recommendations for self-isolation, masking, and other topics (i.e., guidance for immunocompromised individuals).

COVID-19 TESTING

- Some individuals remain [eligible for PCR testing](#), including those [eligible for COVID-19 treatments](#). Use the [PCR locator tool](#) to assist with finding a test location.
- Rapid Antigen Tests (RAT) are available at select retailers while supplies last. If you are at high risk of severe outcomes from COVID-19 (including high-priority communities and people eligible for COVID-19 treatments) and you are unable to obtain one at a retail outlet, SWPH may have tests available.
 - Individuals can pick up a box of 5 rapid tests at our 410 Buller Street (Woodstock) or 1230 Talbot Street (St. Thomas) locations, Monday to Friday, 8:30AM-4:30PM OR [order online](#) for pick up at a later date.
- Primary care providers, hospitals, pharmacies, and other healthcare providers may also order RAT kits to distribute to their patients. Distribution to patients is voluntary and will not have billing codes for reimbursement.
- Refer to the [information bulletin](#) for full details regarding testing and antiviral treatment.
- For questions, consult the [FAQ for RAT kits](#) or contact Sarah.Levitt@Ontario.ca.

UNIVERSAL INFLUENZA IMMUNIZATION PROGRAM UPDATE

- Refer to the [CMOH memo, issued September 18, 2023](#) for details related to the UIIP for 2023/2024.

SENIORS DENTAL

- SWPH has a mobile dental clinic that offers services to eligible low-income seniors in the region with upcoming locations found on the [SWPH website](#). Visit swpublichealth.ca/seniorsdental for details.

FALL SCHOOL VACCINATIONS

- SWPH will be in all public elementary schools between October and November to deliver the Grade 7 Vaccination program (HPV, Hepatitis B, and Meningococcal vaccines) to eligible, consenting students.
 - These vaccines can be ordered by health care providers using the [High Risk and School Order form](#). It is essential that any Grade 7 vaccine provided in health care provider offices **are reported back** to SWPH.
- SWPH will complete a full immunization record review of all students enrolled in area secondary schools this fall.
 - Catch up clinics for students overdue or missing vaccinations will be available at each secondary school and appointments are available at SWPH using our online booking system.
 - Suspensions from area secondary schools (in accordance with the [Immunization of School Pupils Act](#)) **will be enforced as of December 13, 2023** for any students who remain outstanding with vaccination records or immunizations.

UPDATE TO GENERAL TEST REQUISITION FORM

- Public Health Ontario has updated its [general test requisition form](#) in an effort to improve data quality and enhance sample processing and turnaround times. Discard all old copies and replace with this new version.
- Visit publichealthontario.ca/requisitions for details.

RABIES REMINDER

- Human rabies is extremely rare in Canada, with foxes, raccoons, skunks, and bats being common reservoirs. Internationally, dogs are the main carriers of the disease in Asia and Africa.
- If a human is exposed to the rabies virus, post-exposure prophylaxis is highly effective and requires consideration of the exposure to the potentially rabid animal; management of the potentially rabid animal; and management of the exposed person.
- Refer to the [Canadian Immunization Guide](#) for guidance, including:
 - Recommendations for use
 - Pre-exposure management
 - Post-exposure management
 - Vaccine administration: **Dose, route, and schedule**
 - Rabies Immunoglobulin
 - Rabies vaccine
 - Serology
 - Healthy and immunocompromised considerations