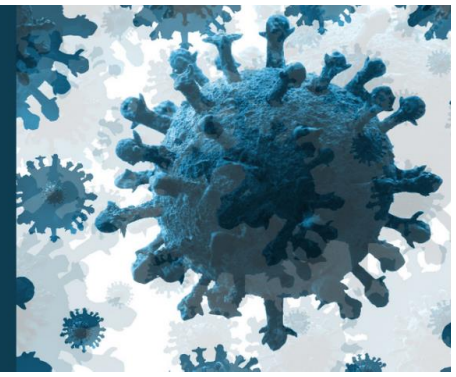


COVID-19 Immunization Update

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



Week of April 12, 2021

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

Please share with staff as appropriate.

What You Need to Know this Week:

- Full COVID-19 vaccine eligibility is listed on our website, www.swpublichealth.ca/eligibility. This week, the following groups were added to the eligibility in our region:
 - **Adults aged 60 and older (including those turning 60 in 2021)**
 - **Immediate household/family members of Indigenous people who themselves are not Indigenous are also eligible to receive the vaccine.**
 - **Education staff who provide direct support to students with complex special needs as defined as those who support students who meet one or more of the following criteria:**
 - who require support with activities of daily living, including health and safety measures
 - are unable to wear a face covering for medical reasons
 - have complex medical needs
 - cannot be accommodated through remote learning
- Individuals aged 55 and older are also currently eligible for vaccination **at participating pharmacies**, as coordinated through the Province, visit covid-19.ontario.ca/vaccine-locations. **Our message remains that eligible individuals should accept any COVID-19 vaccine that is available to them, as early as possible. The benefit of vaccination currently outweighs the risks of not being vaccinated.**
- While 'essential workers who cannot work from home' are not yet eligible to book an appointment, the types of workplaces identified on our [online pre-registration form](#) can register. This helps us better understand how many people will become eligible under this cohort in our region.
- Southwestern Public Health continues to offer support to those aged 75 and older who need assistance booking an appointment. This is an equitable solution to allocating our end of day doses or to fill cancellations we receive throughout the day. Please share this form with individuals in your practice aged 75+ who may need booking support: forms.swpublichealth.ca/COVID-19-Help-List.
- We are working closely with health care partners on a strategy to vaccinate people who live in the N5H 'hot spot' region. Details will be shared with our community soon.

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



- The Ministry of Health updated its [Guidance: After Your COVID-19 Vaccine](#) to include specific information related to rare side effects known as Vaccine-Induced Prothrombotic Immune Thrombocytopenia. Southwestern Public Health produced a [simplified version](#) as a community- and patient-facing resource.
- Second dose scheduling has been updated given the scarce vaccine supply. The Province has directed to following:
 - All second doses for the following individuals will be delivered at intervals described in the product monograph:
 - Residents of Long-Term Care, Retirement Homes, and First Nations Elder Care Homes
 - Indigenous people living on-reserve
 - Transplant recipients (including solid organ transplants, and hematopoietic stem cell transplants)
 - Individuals with malignant hematological disorders and non-hematologic malignant solid tumors receiving active treatment (chemotherapy, targeted therapies, immunotherapy), excluding individuals receiving solely hormonal therapy or radiation therapy
 - All other groups will be scheduled for second doses 112 days after their first dose.
 - A process will soon be communicated for how to revise a second dose appointment for those who are eligible.
- On April 14, [Health Canada provided an update](#) on the AstraZeneca/COVISHIELD COVID-19 vaccine. In its ongoing safety review, Health Canada concluded that very rare blood clot events may be linked to use of this vaccine. Health Canada also updated label warnings to include possible side effects, and to give information about the signs and symptoms four or more days after vaccination that require medical attention, including: shortness of breath, chest pain, leg swelling, persistent abdominal pain, neurological symptoms, or skin bruising or tiny blood spots under the skin. **Review the update for what healthcare professionals should do in the event of an adverse effect reported by a client or patient.**
- Ontario eConsult Service is available for health care providers who have specific questions regarding vaccine for patients with allergies or comorbidities. Accessed on the www.OTNhub.ca, this resource offers easy and timely access to specialist advice, including multiple COVID-19 related specialties.
 - **Main content:** <https://econsultontario.ca/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/Ontario-eConsult-and-COVID-19-Final2.pdf>
 - **COVID-19 allergy content:** https://econsultontario.ca/wp-content/uploads/covid-19_vaccine_guide/COVID_Vaccine_Allergy_Group_Guide.pdf