

COVID-19 Immunization Update

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



Week of April 22, 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 40 and older, only at participating pharmacy and primary care locations.**
 - **Adults aged 50 and older residing in an N5H postal code; eligible through participating pharmacy, participating primary care, and Southwestern Public Health's mass immunization clinics in Tillsonburg, St. Thomas, and Woodstock.**
 - Proof of age and residence is required to access appointments at Southwestern Public Health's mass immunization clinics.
 - **Adults aged 16 and older who have one of the identified High-Risk Conditions below, plus one primary essential caregiver*:**
 - Obesity (BMI over 40)
 - Other treatments causing immunosuppression (e.g. chemotherapy, immunity weakening medications)
 - Intellectual or developmental disabilities (e.g. Down Syndrome)

****For clarity, if the individual with the eligible health condition cannot receive the vaccine (ex. under the aged of 16), the primary essential caregiver is still eligible.***

Written documentation or proof of any eligible health condition is NOT required from a healthcare provider. Self-attestation is accepted.

- On May 6, the East Elgin Family Health Team is hosting a small, pop-up vaccination clinic in the N5H 'Hot Spot.' **This clinic is fully-booked** and will see hundreds of N5H residents vaccinated. If you operate a primary care clinic and are interested in hosting a similar pop-up vaccination clinic, please contact Southwestern Public Health to discuss options.
- Additional efforts are underway to reach residents in N5H postal codes. To-date, more than 2,600 have been vaccinated in the N5H region through mass immunization clinics, mobile clinics for individuals who are medically bed-bound, and early efforts to vaccinate staff and residents of Long-Term Care, Retirement Homes and high-risk congregate settings.

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



- On April 21, [Southwestern Public Health announced](#) a partnership with Oxford County, Oxford County EMS, and the Town of Tillsonburg to open a third mass immunization clinic. Appointments at the Tillsonburg clinic are currently available at www.covidvaccinelm.ca.
- Starting April 22, Southwestern Public Health is expanding its COVID-19 Vaccine Help List to those **aged 60 and older**. Please share this form with individuals in your practice aged 60+ who may need help booking an appointment: forms.swpublichealth.ca/COVID-19-Help-List.
- On April 19, the Ministry of Health informed public health units to expect an increased supply of the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine in May, and a delayed delivery of AstraZeneca to arrive mid-May. The Ministry is currently evaluating pharmacy allocations in light of this.
- On April 22, the Ministry will present vaccine allocation and modelling to public health units. Dr. Homer Tien, current head of Ontario's COVID-19 Vaccine Task Force, expects Ontario to reach 40% of the population receiving at least one dose of vaccine by May 5.