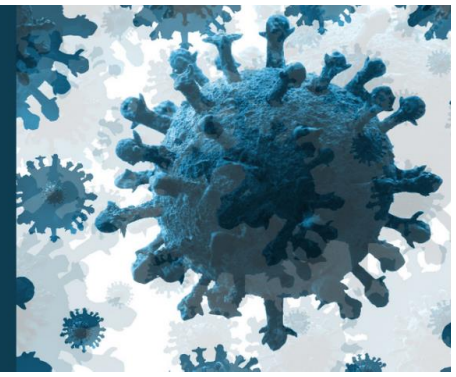


# COVID-19 Immunization Update

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](http://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](http://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](http://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](https://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.