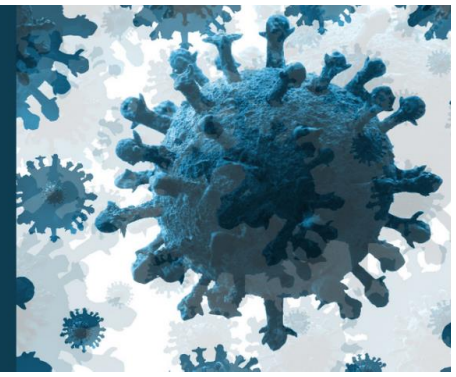


COVID-19 Immunization Update

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



Week of April 29, 2021

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

Please share with staff as appropriate.

What You Need to Know This Week

1. ELIGIBILITY

- Visit www.swpublichealth.ca/eligibility for a full list of who is currently eligible.
- These groups became eligible this week:
 - **Adults aged 45 and older living in N5H postal codes** (proof of residence and age is required)
 - **Childcare workers aged 18 and older, defined specifically as:**
 - Licensees, employees, and students on an educational placement who interact directly with children in licensed childcare centres and in authorized recreation and skill-building programs.
 - Licensed home childcare and in-home service providers, employees of a home childcare agency, and students on an educational placement who interact daily with children in a licensed home childcare setting.
 - **Adults aged 55 and older** (as of April 30 at 8 a.m.)
- On April 29, the [Province outlined its strategy](#) for anticipated eligibility rollout throughout the month of May. These will be reviewed locally against available vaccine supply.

2. PRIMARY ESSENTIAL CAREGIVER DEFINITION

- Individuals who have specific highest-risk and high-risk health conditions may require daily assistance from a primary essential caregiver. For those who do, their caregiver is also eligible for vaccination.
- **Not all health conditions require a primary essential caregiver.**
- This role is defined as individuals who provide regular and sustained assistance with personal care and/or activities of daily living (e.g. feeding, bathing, dressing, toileting).

3. ELIGIBLE HEALTH CONDITIONS

- Southwestern Public Health is mandated to adhere to the [Ministry of Health's Guidance for Prioritization of Phase 2 Populations](#), which clearly defines which health conditions are eligible under Highest Risk, High Risk, and At-Risk health categories.
- **Conditions that are not within the scope of these definitions are not eligible.**

4. VACCINE SUPPLY

- The Ministry has informed public health units to expect an increased supply of Pfizer-BioNTech to arrive in May.

5. VACCINE HESITANCY

- As more populations become eligible over the weeks ahead, please consider contacting patients who may be hesitant to accept the COVID-19 vaccine, especially those who are already eligible and have delayed booking an appointment.
- Credible resources for patient-facing content:
 - Ontario: <https://covid-19.ontario.ca/covid-19-vaccines-ontario>
 - Health Canada: <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/diseases/2019-novel-coronavirus-infection/awareness-resources/know-vaccine.html>
 - Non-Government Organization: <https://www.askontariodoctors.ca/vaccinefacts>
 - Non-Government Organization: <https://tools.cep.health/tool/covid-19-vaccines/>

6. PRIMARY CARE VACCINE WEBINAR

- Topic: Get Ready for COVID-19 Vaccine at YOUR Office
- Targeted toward primary care providers and their staff to prepare them for arrival of COVID-19 vaccines in primary care clinical offices.
 - Save the Date: Tuesday, May 4th 12:00-13:00
 - [Click for details](#)
 - This webinar will be recorded for those who cannot attend