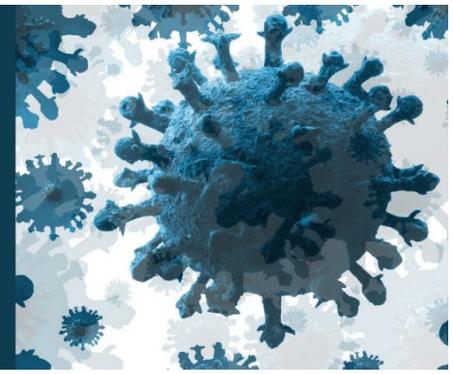


# COVID-19 Immunization Update

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



July 9, 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. SECOND DOSES

- On July 5, individuals aged 12 and older across Ontario became eligible to receive an accelerated second mRNA vaccine.
- Must wait a minimum of 28 days between first and second mRNA doses (ages 12+); 8 weeks between AstraZeneca first dose and any second dose type.
- **Action: proactively** encourage your patients and clients to seek an accelerated second dose, as quickly as they are able to for full protection from COVID-19.

#### 2. FIRST DOSES

- The Ministry of Health has indicated the vaccination rate for first doses is plateauing.
- The Province is encouraging local health units to stretch to reach a vaccination target of 80-90% coverage to combat variants of concern and prevent a fourth wave in the fall and winter.
- **Action: proactively curb vaccine hesitancy** citing credible resources and supports:
  - [Needle Fears Resource – Ministry of Health](#)
  - [CARD Improving the Vaccination Experience – Ministry of Health](#)
  - [Clinical guidance for primary care providers working with parents – College of Family Physicians of Canada](#)
  - [Primer: Building confidence in vaccines – Public Health Ontario](#)
  - [Guide: Building confidence in Moderna – Centre for Effective Practice](#)
- **Action:** remind patients and clients of **critical timelines for fall activities** (i.e. back to school, Thanksgiving family celebrations, fall/winter travel), noting the requirement to wait 28 days between first and second dose plus an additional 14 days post-second dose to be considered fully-vaccinated.
- **Action: communicate vaccine availability** at your own clinic(s)/pharmacy, including last-minute or end-of-day doses to encourage individuals to obtain a first or second dose at their earliest

opportunity. Consider informing nearby system partners (i.e. primary care providers, pharmacies, etc.) when you have additional doses to administer (email, Facebook, WhatsApp, etc.)

- **Action: get creative** in removing barriers or driving enthusiasm for vaccination, such as drive through clinics, pop-up clinics, make your clinic more of an event, initiate a challenge, etc.

### 3. FEDERAL, PROVINCIAL, LOCAL VACCINATION RATES

- As of 10:00 a.m. on July 9:
  - 79%\* of [eligible Canadians](#) (12+) have received at least one dose of COVID-19 vaccine; 47% have received two doses.
  - 78% of [eligible Ontarians](#) (12+) have received at least one dose; 50% have received two doses.
    - 79% of adults (18+) have received at least one dose; 53% have received two doses.
  - 64% of [eligible Southwestern Public Health residents](#) (12+) have received at least one dose; 35% have received two doses.
    - 78% of adults (18+) have received at least one dose; 41% have received two doses.

*\* All % figures have been rounded up to nearest whole.*

### 4. UPDATED: TRAVEL AFTER VACCINATION

- On July 5, the Public Health Agency of Canada began Phase 1 of its eased border restrictions, including:
  - Fully-vaccinated travellers are eligible to re-enter Canada with no self isolation requirement; those not fully-vaccinated will be required to self isolate for up to 14 days upon return to Canada
  - Restricts entry to Canada from foreign nationals, unless they already meet an exemption set out in the border restrictions
  - Maintains pre- and on-arrival testing for all travellers
  - Monitors for variants of concern
  - Requirements for COVID-19-related information be submitted in advance of arrival.
  - More details: <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/diseases/2019-novel-coronavirus-infection/awareness-resources/fully-vaccinated-travellers-covid-19.html>
- There is currently no global consensus on international travel requirements following vaccinations for COVID-19.

### 5. NEW MINISTRY GUIDANCE DOCUMENTS

- [Vaccine Administration Errors and Deviations Guidance](#) (June 23)
- [Second Dose Eligibility Quick Reference](#) (July 6)
- [Vaccine Storage and Handling Guidance](#) (June 23)