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COVID-19 VACCINE ELIGIBILITY UPDATE FOR THE SOUTHWESTERN PUBLIC HEALTH REGION

The following groups have been added to the eligibility for the COVID-19 Vaccine in our region.

1. All patient-facing health care workers involved in the COVID-19 response:
 - COVID-19 Assessment Centres and Mobile Testing teams
 - COVID-19 vaccine clinics and mobile immunization teams
 - COVID-19 Isolation Centres
 - COVID-19 Laboratory Services
2. Medical First Responders, such as ORNGE, paramedics, and firefighters providing medical first response.
3. Community health care workers, who are patient facing, serving specialized populations, including:
 - Needle exchange or syringe programs, and supervised consumption and treatment services
 - Aboriginal Health Access Centres, Indigenous Community Health Centres, Indigenous Interprofessional Primary Care Teams, and Indigenous Nurse Practitioner-led Clinics
 - Community health centers (CHCs) serving disproportionately affected communities
 - Home and community care health care workers who care for recipients of chronic homecare, or care for seniors in congregate living facilities, or provide hands-on care to COVID-19 patients in the community.

All previously identified groups remain eligible. Long-Term Care and Retirement Home staff also remain eligible. Those who are currently verified as eligible will be given appointment booking information directly from their workplace or facility. Please connect with your facility leadership if you have not received information to access your vaccination.

Those aged 80 or over should not call Public Health or their health care provider to book an appointment. Information on how to book an appointment for clinics will be available soon.

Only individuals who are validated as eligible will receive vaccination at this time. All others will be turned away if they arrive at the vaccination clinic.

Public Health does not keep a wait list for COVID-19 vaccinations. As more groups become eligible, we will update our website at www.swpublichealth.ca/covid19vaccine. We appreciate your continued patience and support.