

COVID-19 Immunization Update

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



Week of March 8, 2021

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

Please share with staff as appropriate.

REMINDER: SWPH COVID-19 Vaccination Weekly e-Newsletter

- Southwestern Public Health requires all health care providers and organizations to sign up for our weekly COVID-19 immunization e-newsletter updates. Please sign up here: <http://eepurl.com/hnoSX5>.
- *Please note: we are legally obliged to request opt-in for this e-newsletter.*

What You Need to Know this Week:

- On March 10, the following groups were added to the eligibility for COVID-19 vaccine in our region:
 - 1. Adults aged 16 and older who are recipients of chronic home care.**
 - 2. Frontline health care workers in the following outpatient and ambulatory areas:**
 - Hospital-based outpatient clinics
 - Primary care, including walk-in clinics, community health centres, and nurse-practitioner-led clinics
 - Home and community care
 - Adult day programs for seniors
 - Community-based specialty clinics, including medical and surgical specialties
 - Death investigation professionals
 - Dentistry
 - Gynecology/obstetrics, midwifery, and birth centres
 - Contract nursing agencies
 - Pharmacies
 - Assisted living, group homes, residential facilities, and supportive housing
 - Correctional settings
 - Hospices and palliative care settings
 - Shelters
 - 3. Laboratory services**

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



- All previously identified groups remain eligible. For a complete list of eligibility groups, visit www.swpublichealth.ca/covid19vaccine. Read the latest [Regional COVID-19 Vaccine Prioritization Advisory Committee update](#).
- On March 10, the second dose interval schedule was updated for the MLHU-SWPH-HPPH region to be consistent with provincial direction and to maximize the number of individuals benefitting from a first dose of vaccine. The second dose of vaccine will be delayed for most recipients. Details include:
 - All second doses for residents of long-term care, retirement and First Nation elder care homes will continue to be delivered at the initial intervals described in the product monographs.
 - All second doses for all other groups will be scheduled at 112 days after their first dose.
- Beginning March 10, Southwestern Public Health welcomes health care organizations and self-employed health care workers to pre-register for the COVID-19 vaccine. **This pre-registration process is NOT intended for individual employees to submit.** Only owners, operators, directors, and chief administrators should be filling out this form on behalf of a health care organization.

Pre-Registration Process:

- Visit the [pre-registration webpage](#).
 - Please have only one contact person submit the pre-registration list for your entire organization. This contact person should have a leadership role within the organization (e.g. CEO, Lead professional) as they will receive all vaccine-related information and communication from Southwestern Public Health.
 - If you are a contractor, please ask your workplace to include you on their workplace submission.
 - If you are self-employed, you are your own employer and can self-submit your pre-registration.
 - To pre-register, this contact person must submit the completed pre-registration template in the survey on the website.
 - The completed pre-registration template must include the names of all relevant health care workers associated with the organization and indicate which group best describes the work done by your organization.
 - It takes approximately 3-5 days to validate a submission. An email will be sent to notify individuals when they become eligible. Please do not call public health to check on the status of your validation.
- On March 8, Southwestern Public Health announced first appointments for the week of March 15 were available to book as of March 9 for its vaccination sites at St. Thomas-Elgin Memorial Arena in St. Thomas, and the Community Complex-Goff Hall in Woodstock. [Read the news release](#) for more details.
 - Before noon on March 9, Southwestern Public Health confirmed all appointments available for those aged 80 or older were fully booked. [Read the news release](#) for more details. **There are still limited appointments available for the week of March 15 for eligible health care workers and Indigenous adults aged 55 and older.**
 - Southwestern Public Health has confirmed a new local allocation of the PfizerBioNTech vaccine will arrive in-region the week of March 22.

- It is expected another 5,000 appointments will soon be available to book for the week of March 22. Booking re-opens on Monday, March 15 at 8 a.m. At that time, eligible individuals can book by calling 226-289-3560 (Monday to Sunday, 8 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.) or online at www.covidvaccinelm.ca. **Please do not call public health, primary care providers, or present at a vaccination clinic to book an appointment.**
 - **Important: There will be enough vaccine for everyone who wants it when they are eligible.** This will require some patience as we get our mass immunization clinics up to capacity and receive a more-steady supply of vaccine.
- Consent forms continue to be a potential bottleneck for upcoming local clinics. These forms are required for all appointments to receive vaccine. It is advised that all individuals who have an appointment bring a completed form to the clinic to avoid delays. **Those who anticipate they will want a vaccine do not need to wait to fill out this form – it can be completed now while you await eligibility.**
 - Download and Print: www.swpublichealth.ca/vaccineconsent
 - Access a printed copy in the community: www.swpublichealth.ca/consentpickup
- Earlier this week, the province presented its centralized COVAX scheduling system rollout strategy to public health units, with an expected delivery the week of March 15. It is unclear which public health units will be provided access to the COVAX system at that time. Details will be shared as we learn more. At this time, SWPH will not be joining this early launch of the COVAX scheduling system.