

# COVID-19 Immunization Update

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



Week of March 15, 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 will no longer be distributing this e-newsletter via ERMS as of March 29. If you have not yet signed up for this e-newsletter, please do before March 29: <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 17, the following groups were added to the eligibility for COVID-19 vaccine in our region:  
The following groups will be eligible to book an appointment within the next several weeks, depending on appointment availability in the local health unit. Slight variation between health units is anticipated. Please check the website of the local health unit for up-to-date information on who is eligible to book on any given day.
  1. **Residents and staff of congregate settings with a history of outbreak or with high-risk populations, at the discretion of the local public health unit.**
  2. **Frontline healthcare workers in the following outpatient and ambulatory areas, including:**
    - Developmental services
    - Mental health and addictions services
    - Campus health
    - Community diagnostic imaging
    - Daycare/school nursing
    - Dietary / nutrition
    - Independent health facilities (e.g., Opticians/Optomety, Podiatry, Audiology)
    - Naturopathy / Holistic care
    - Social work
    - Sexual health clinics
  3. **Frontline healthcare workers in the following non-acute rehabilitation and therapy areas, including:**
    - Chiropractic

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[www.swpublichealth.ca](http://www.swpublichealth.ca)  
1-800-922-0096



- Chronic pain clinics
- Kinesiology
- Occupational therapy
- Physiotherapy
- Psychiatry
- Psychology
- Psychotherapy
- Registered massage therapy
- Acupuncture, other therapy

#### 4. Public health.

#### 5. Non-Frontline health care workers (e.g., those working remotely, in administration, and who do not require PPE to work).

- All previously identified groups remain eligible. For a complete list of eligibility groups, visit [www.swpublichealth.ca/covid19vaccine](http://www.swpublichealth.ca/covid19vaccine). Read the latest [Regional COVID-19 Vaccine Prioritization Advisory Committee update](#).
- 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. For more information visit [www.swpublichealth.ca/preregisterhealthcare](http://www.swpublichealth.ca/preregisterhealthcare).
- On March 15, Ontario launched its [provincial booking system](#) for individuals aged 80 and older to schedule a COVID-19 vaccination appointment. This service is available in [select public health regions](#). Southwestern Public Health is **not currently enrolled** in the provincial booking system – to book an appointment in Elgin-St. Thomas or Oxford County, please continue to use [www.covidvaccinelm.ca](http://www.covidvaccinelm.ca) or call 226-289-3560 (Monday to Sunday, 8:00 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.).
- Southwestern Public Health has confirmed a new allocation of the PfizerBioNTech vaccine and an allocation of the Moderna vaccine will arrive in-region the week of March 29. It is expected we will continue to receive weekly allocations until further notice.
- With this more-steady supply of vaccine expected, Southwestern Public Health will release new appointments weekly on Mondays at 8 a.m. via our existing online and phone-based booking system. **Please do not call public health, primary care providers, or present at a vaccination clinic to book an appointment.**
- On March 12, the Ministry of Health updated its [COVID-19 Vaccine Consent Form](#). The previous version of the consent form is still accepted at vaccine clinics. We will provide an updated version on our website for download and printing. **Please continue to distribute any existing printed copies of the previous version you may have, and replenish with the new version thereafter.**

- On March 11, the Ministry of Health [updated its guidance for the AstraZeneca vaccine](#) to now include those aged 18-64. We are awaiting direction from the province for how this will impact Ontario's COVID-19 Vaccine Strategy roll-out across the province and locally.