

COVID-19 Immunization Update

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



Week of May 3, 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 18 and older residing in an N5H postal code** (proof of age and residence is required; if they are not yet 18 at the time of the appointment, they cannot attend the Tillsonburg clinic as it exclusively administers Moderna)
 - **Adults aged 50 and older**
 - **Group 1 - Essential Workers Who Cannot Work From Home, including:**
 - Elementary/secondary school workers (including educators, custodial, school bus drivers, administrative staff)
 - Workers responding to critical events (including police, fire, special constables, children's aid society workers, emergency management, critical infrastructure, restoration workers)
 - Enforcement, inspection, and compliance roles (including by-law enforcement, building inspectors, food inspectors, animal welfare inspectors, border inspection officers, labour inspectors/WSIB field workers)
 - Foster care agency workers (including customary care providers)
 - Food manufacturing and distribution workers
 - Agriculture and farm workers
 - Funeral, crematorium, and cemetery workers
- Remaining Essential Workers Who Cannot Work From Home will become eligible in the near future.

2. PHARMACY AND PRIMARY CARE EXPANSION

- Select pharmacies in Ontario are currently piloting administration of the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine.

- On March 4, Southwestern Public Health and local primary care leads in Elgin and Oxford hosted a webinar to prepare primary care to accept, store, and administer COVID-19 vaccine. **View the webinar chapters below:**
 - Introduction & Situation Update: <https://youtu.be/TVeci8YmccY>
 - Physician Experiences in On-Boarding Covid-19 Vaccine: <https://youtu.be/hnditWD-gCA>
 - SWPH In-Service Support: <https://youtu.be/bYi8xKUwJBg>
 - Booking Clients & Administrative Details: <https://youtu.be/gszAYQtvP7c>
 - Rheumatology, Q&A, Additional Details: https://youtu.be/AJxQP9z_NhU
- If you operate a primary care facility and wish to learn more about the on-boarding process or need further support, please email ldurham@swpublichealth.ca.

3. DIRECTIVE 3 UPDATED DUE TO HIGH VACCINATION RATES IN LTC

- Ontario announced it has [updated Directive 3 for Long-Term Care Homes](#) to safely resume activities such as communal dining and indoor events and gatherings, with precautions.
- Additionally, residents and their caregivers who are **fully immunized** may choose to have close physical contact beyond what is required for care, such as hugging.

4. NACI: RECOMMENDED USE FOR COVID-19 VACCINE

- On May 3, NACI issued a statement that includes:
 - updated recommended use for the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine to include those aged 12-16.
 - new recommendation for Johnson & Johnson's Jansen vaccine for those aged 30 and older who do not have contraindications, if the individual does not wish to wait for an mRNA vaccine, and if the benefits outweigh the risks.
 - preference for mRNA vaccines due to excellent protection and absence of safety signals of concern; preference for mRNA vaccines for pregnant individuals.
 - affirmation that those previously infected with COVID-19 be offered a complete series of vaccination
 - continued recommendation to follow public health guidance, regardless of vaccination status
- Read the [full statement](#), or the [summary](#), for details.
- Southwestern Public Health will await the Ministry's direction regarding Ontario's age eligibility and guidance for the Pfizer-BioNTech and Jansen vaccines.

5. VACCINE SUPPLY

- The Ministry has informed public health units to expect an increased supply of Pfizer-BioNTech toward the end of this month. Our largest vaccine shipments to-date are to be received in the month of June.
- The next shipments of Moderna and AstraZeneca are expected to be delayed. There is no estimated date of arrival for further shipments of either of these products at this time in the province.

- Southwestern Public Health anticipates approximately 1,600 doses of Janssen's (Johnson & Johnson) single-dose COVID-19 vaccine to arrive late May. SWPH plans to use the majority of these doses, together with our mobile team and partners, to vaccinate groups in our communities that may be challenging to reach.