

COVID-19 Immunization Update

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



June 17, 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. EARLY SECOND DOSE ELIGIBILITY

- On June 17, [the Province announced](#) it is accelerating second doses for the following groups:
 - **June 21 at 8:00 a.m.:** anyone who had a first dose of mRNA vaccine on or before May 9th
 - **June 23 at 8:00 a.m.:** those living in identified Delta hot spots (Durham, Halton, Hamilton, Peel, Porcupine, Simcoe-Muskoka, Toronto, Waterloo, Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph, York) who had a first dose of mRNA vaccine on or before May 30th
 - **Week of June 28:** anyone aged 18 and older is eligible for a second dose at a minimum of 28 days after their first dose
- Visit www.swpublichealth.ca/eligibility for a full list of who is currently eligible.
- Those who book their second dose appointment elsewhere (e.g. at a pharmacy, primary care, or another health unit) are asked to cancel their existing appointment with public health at <http://swpublichealth.ca/eligibility#CancelMyVaccine>.

2. SUMMARY OF SECOND DOSE VACCINATION TIMELINES

- **Individuals who had an mRNA vaccine as their first dose** must wait a minimum of 28 days between first and second doses.
- **Individuals who had the AstraZeneca vaccine as their first dose** must wait a minimum of 8 weeks between first and second dose, regardless of whether their second dose is AstraZeneca or an mRNA vaccine.

3. UPDATED VACCINE STORAGE GUIDANCE

- On June 8, the Ministry updated its guidance for [COVID-19 vaccine storage and handling](#)
- Key points:
 - Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine now +2C to +8C storage

- NEW! Moderna vaccine now 24-hour usage timeline after first puncture (not listed on June 8 version of Ministry guidance above)

4. UPDATED VACCINE CONSENT FOR FIRST DOSE ASTRAZENECA

- On June 14, the Ministry published a [COVID-19 vaccine consent form](#) for people who received AstraZeneca as their first dose.
- Additional support for discussions with patients: [AstraZeneca Vaccine Dose Q&A for Health Care Providers](#)

5. QUICK REFERENCE: SECOND DOSE ELIGIBILITY

- On June 14, the Ministry published a [quick reference guide for healthcare providers](#) to summarize second dose eligibility for Ontario populations.
- It also includes anticipated accelerated second dose schedules for remaining age cohorts.

6. VACCINE MIXING STATEMENT

- On June 16, Dr. Joyce Lock, Medical Officer of Health, [issued a statement](#) regarding vaccine mixing and mRNA interchangeability in the Southwestern Public Health region.
- Core message: “It is very important that we put less emphasis on brand and manufacturer and more on getting people fully vaccinated. One dose is not effective against COVID-19 and it certainly isn’t effective enough against the variants of concern like the Delta variant. Fully vaccinated is our goal.”