

HPMVAC update: Feb. 25, 2021

Current Vaccination Status in Huron-Perth

- The province has indicated that vaccine supply has improved and that eligibility for first-doses can be expanded to other groups identified in Phase 1 of the three-phase provincial plan.
- Short-term vaccine supply will continue to be less than the number of eligible recipients in the Phase One population. Therefore, further regional prioritization is required.
- For Huron Perth, this is done at a regional level between Huron Perth Public Health, Middlesex London Health Unit and Southwestern Public Health.
- When possible, HPPH, MLHU, and SWPH will strongly consider age in determining the sequence of COVID-19 vaccine recipients. This is consistent with the province's ethical framework. To reduce the number of deaths in the province, prioritizing the immunization of older individuals will be critical.
- The only product currently available in the region is the Pfizer-BioNtech COVID-19 vaccine.

Current Vaccination Activities

- Pilot community clinics for eligible long-term care and retirement home staff and essential caregivers were carried out Feb. 21-Feb. 25 in Huron-Perth; these clinics were possible thanks to the many community partners that made this happen, including Community Emergency Management Coordinators, municipalities, primary care providers, community volunteers and long-term care and retirement facilities.
- Additional clinics will be carried out for the above groups next week. Those eligible are being contacted directly.
- Mobile clinics are on track to administer first doses to eligible retirement home residents by end of this week.
- As additional people join the above groups (e.g. someone is admitted to a facility or becomes an essential caregiver) they will also be eligible for vaccine; there will be additional opportunities to be vaccinated.
- Vaccinations are continuing for healthcare workers, as prioritized by provincial guidance. (COVID-19: Guidance for Prioritizing Health Care Workers for COVID-19 Vaccination)

Please Note

- **“Once eligible, always eligible”** Once HPPH announces that you are eligible for the vaccine, you are always eligible; you will not miss your chance to be vaccinated as there will be additional opportunities.
- During Phase 1, eligible, confirmed candidates for vaccinations are being directly contacted.
 - Please **do not** call Huron Perth Public Health, your primary care provider, or the pharmacy to be put on a wait list for the vaccine. If you are eligible during Phase One, you will be contacted.
- Timelines will depend on vaccine supply and availability, but we anticipate to start vaccinating community seniors (80+) in mid-March (again, depending on supply).

- HPPH will be communicating this information widely, including through our phone line's vaccination status message as well as print, radio, website, social media and outreach from groups and organizations such as family doctors and home care organizations.
- Communications will go out widely to notify eligible candidates for Phases 2 and 3 when those phases are set to begin.
- Find the latest vaccination updates at hpph.ca/vaccines. To hear our regularly updated 24-7 vaccination status message, call HPPH at 888.221.2133 and select "1" for COVID VACCINE. Please listen to the whole message to receive all of the information.
- **Please remember that there will be enough vaccine for everyone.** Anyone who wants to be vaccinated will receive their opportunity to be vaccinated. We appreciate the enthusiasm and patience of those eager to receive COVID vaccine.
- Vaccine doses can be maximized through use of 1mL syringes. We ask our healthcare partners to consider using alternate syringe sizes where appropriate to preserve all 1mL syringes for vaccination purposes in our communities.

For More Information

Please visit www.hpph.ca/vaccine for more information, or contact your HPMVAC sector representative. The HPMVAC membership list is available at www.hpph.ca/vaccine. You can also call HPPH at 888.221.2133 for more information.

About HPMVAC

The Huron Perth COVID-19 Mass Vaccination Advisory Committee (HPMVAC) is a collaborative of multiple relevant sector stakeholder members from our Huron and Perth communities.

Under the leadership of Huron Perth Public Health, our table has been meeting to inform COVID-19 mass vaccination planning and operations for our communities.

This memo serves to update you, our community members and partners. Please note, guidance provided is tentative and subject to change. This reflects the evolving nature of COVID-19 and related supply chain logistics.