

HPMVAC update: March 4, 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 1 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.
- Pfizer-BioNtech is the COVID-19 vaccine available in the region.

Current Vaccination Activities

- Mobile clinics, with the support of partners, continue for facilities that can accommodate them.
- Community clinics continue across Huron-Perth for eligible groups, including:
 - Staff and essential caregivers in long-term care homes, retirement homes, and any residents of these settings that have not yet received a first dose of vaccine.
 - Alternative level of care patients in hospitals who have a confirmed admission to a long-term care home, retirement home or other congregate care home for seniors.
 - "Highest Priority" health care workers, followed by some "Very High Priority" health care workers.
 - Residents and staff in other congregate care settings for seniors, including assisted living facilities.
- Those eligible in the above groups are being contacted directly. Eligible health care workers will receive booking directions from their employer.
- Huron Perth Public Health has also opened up COVID-19 vaccine appointments to adults aged 80 and older, and Indigenous adults aged 55 and older. This is being done through an online and telephone booking system HPPH has set up, which will stay in place, pending the activation of the provincial portal.
- As of 11 a.m. on March 4, HPPH had booked 3,500 appointments in the previous 18 hours. We thank everyone for this tremendous response and appreciate the enthusiasm of those eager for a COVID-19 vaccination.
- Clinics will continue in Goderich and Stratford, as well as rotate across municipalities in Huron-Perth, for the next several weeks.
- 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.

Please Note

- Please **do not** call your primary care provider, or the pharmacy to book an appointment. Bookings are being completed at this time only by HPPH.
 - Please remember that vaccinations are only available to eligible groups.
 - Eligible healthcare workers and those connected to long-term care, retirement homes and other congregate settings will be contacted directly by a facility or through your employer.
 - If you are 80 years of age or older, or an Indigenous adult 55 years of age or older, you need to contact the HPPH booking system at hpph.ca/vaccine or by calling 1-833-753-2098.
 - The Health Unit asks people to book their appointment online if they are able, or have a caregiver who can help them book online, since phone lines are very busy.
 - If you call, please listen to the recording. Please follow the prompts.
 - Several local agencies are assisting seniors to book online. Contact the Community Support Services Network at 1-844-482-7800 to be connected to a local agency near you that can assist you. Through that number, accessible rides can also be scheduled where needed.
 - If you are eligible for a vaccination and need help booking online, you can contact your local library. They have computers available for public use and are can provide technical assistance with the online form. Computer booking requirements and space limitations vary by branch location. Please phone ahead to your local library to see what assistance is available.
 - Clinics for the next two weeks are full.
 - Clinics for the week of March 8-12, 2021:
 - Stratford: Tuesday, March 9 at the Stratford Rotary Complex
 - Goderich: Wednesday, March 10 at the Maitland Recreation Centre
 - Wingham: Thursday, March 11 at the North Huron Westcast Community Centre
 - Milverton: Friday, March 12 at the Perth East Recreation Complex
 - Clinics for the week of March 15-19, 2021:
 - Stratford: Monday, March 15 at the Stratford Rotary Complex
 - Goderich: Wednesday, March 17 at the Maitland Recreation Centre
 - Listowel: Thursday, March 18 at the Steve Kerr Complex
 - Seaforth: Friday, March 19 at the Seaforth & District Community Centre
- **“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.
- Communications will go out widely to notify eligible candidates for Phases 2 and 3 when those phases are set to begin. Communications will include through our phone line’s vaccination status message as well as print, radio, website, social media and outreach from groups and organizations.
- 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.