

## HPMVAC update: March 18, 2021

### Current Vaccination Status in Huron-Perth

- Vaccine supply has improved but continues to be limited, requiring continued prioritization. For Huron Perth, prioritization is done at a regional level between Huron Perth Public Health, Middlesex London Health Unit and Southwestern Public Health.
- Pfizer-BioNtech is the COVID-19 vaccine available in the region currently for mass vaccination clinics.
- A very limited supply of Moderna vaccine has been distributed to Huron Perth health care Primary Care Providers to vaccinate eligible populations. Primary care is calling patients for Moderna vaccine appointments and are asking their patients to please not call their clinic for appointments.
- Significant progress has been made in vaccinating eligible recipients in the provincial Phase One population, with over 9,500 doses given. We anticipate being ready to proceed with Phase 2 by April in alignment with the Provincial Plan.
- In keeping with provincial direction, Huron Perth Public Health has extended the time interval for second doses of COVID-19 vaccines up to 16 weeks, allowing more first doses to be administered. Not all second doses are being extended. The following groups will continue to receive their second dose of vaccine between 21 to 42 days:
  - residents of long-term care homes, retirement homes, Elder Care Lodges and Assisted Living facilities who are at the greatest risk of both exposure to COVID-19 and serious illness and death

### Current eligibility

#### **March 18, 2020: \*NEWLY ELIGIBLE FOR BOOKING AN APPOINTMENT FOR A FIRST-DOSE\***

The following groups will be eligible to book an appointment, depending on appointment availability.

- **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.**
- **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

- **Frontline healthcare workers in the following non-acute rehabilitation and therapy areas, including:**
  - Chiropractic
  - Chronic pain clinics
  - Kinesiology
  - Occupational therapy
  - Physiotherapy
  - Psychiatry
  - Psychology
  - Psychotherapy
  - Registered massage therapy
  - Acupuncture, other therapy
- **Public health**
- **Non-Frontline health care workers (e.g., those working remotely, in administration, and who do not require PPE to work).**

**Groups which continue to be eligible:**

- 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.
- Adults aged 80 and older
- Indigenous adults aged 55 and older.
- The following groups were added to eligibility March 11, 2021:
  - Adults 16 years of age and older who are chronic home care recipients.
  - Frontline healthcare workers in the following outpatient and ambulatory areas:
    - Hospital-based outpatient clinics
    - Primary care, including walk-in clinics, community health centres, and nurse-practitioner-led clinics
    - Home and community care
    - Adult day programs for seniors
    - Community Based Specialty clinics, including medical and surgical specialties
    - Death investigation professionals
    - Dentistry
    - Gynecology/obstetrics, midwifery, and birth centres
    - Contract nursing agencies
    - Pharmacies
    - Assisted living, group homes, residential facilities, supportive housing
  - Correctional settings
  - Hospices and palliative care settings
  - Shelters
  - Laboratory services
- The newly eligible groups will be able to use the HPPH booking system by March 19.

- HPPH and partners are increasing clinic capacity to meet the increased number of eligible groups in alignment with vaccine supply that is received.

## Current Vaccination Activities

- On Monday, March 15 the province launched its COVID-19 vaccination booking system and customer service desk. Eligible residents of Huron-Perth will continue to book their vaccinations through the online and phone system established by Huron Perth Public Health (HPPH). If residents use the provincial system, they will be redirected to HPPH's system.
- HPPH continues to add more COVID-19 vaccination appointments; currently appointments are available up to April 5.
- Residents are strongly encouraged to cancel appointments they have double booked or need to reschedule or cancel. This will free up spots for other eligible residents. Cancellations can be done through email at: [VaccineCancellation@hpph.ca](mailto:VaccineCancellation@hpph.ca) or by calling HPPH Vaccine Booking line: 1-833-753-2098 and Press 2 for Cancellations.
- Mobile clinics, with the support of partners, continue for facilities that can accommodate them, and will also be used for priority populations such as some congregate settings.
- Community clinics continue across Huron-Perth. These are taking place in Goderich and Stratford, as well as some rotating across other municipalities in Huron-Perth. Thank you to our municipal and primary care partners for your support in running these.

## Please Note

- STAR FHT COVID-19 vaccination webinar by Dr Reaume March 18/21 @ 7:00 - 8:00 pm: <https://starfht.ca/class/covid-19-vaccine-information-session-with-dr-samantha-reaume/>
- Please **do not** call your primary care provider, or the pharmacy to book an appointment at a HPPH clinic. Bookings for community clinics are being completed at this time only by HPPH.
  - Please remember that vaccinations are only available to eligible groups.
  - Eligible healthcare workers will be contacted directly by a facility or through your employer.
  - If you are 80 years of age in 2021 (born in 1941), or older, or an Indigenous adult 55 years of age or older, you need to contact the HPPH booking system at [hpph.ca/vaccine](http://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 using the HPPH booking system. 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.
- **“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](http://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 (for both Pfizer and Moderna). 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](http://www.hpph.ca/vaccine) for more information, or contact your HPMVAC sector representative. The HPMVAC membership list is available at [www.hpph.ca/vaccine](http://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.