

HPMVAC Update: April 15, 2021

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WHAT'S NEW THIS WEEK

- Two new eligible groups added:
 - Immediate household/family members of Indigenous people who themselves are not Indigenous
 - Education workers who provide direct support to students with special needs
- All vaccines received in Huron Perth continue to be administered; vaccination roll-out plan is slowed down in accordance with vaccine supply.
- Two Primary Care clinics scheduled to be held for residents 55+, using AstraZeneca vaccine.
- Pharmacies offering AstraZeneca vaccine are being added in Huron Perth.

VACCINATION PROGRAM IN HURON-PERTH

- Huron Perth continues to administer every vaccine received. Uptake of the vaccine by eligible residents has been high in Huron and Perth. To date, the vaccination rates in Huron and Perth are comparable to the provincial averages.
- Huron Perth Public Health has closed appointment bookings for the time being, in accordance with the recent vaccine supply provided. The current confirmed vaccine allotment will be used to vaccinate almost 12,000 people between April 12 and May 1, 2021. Everyone with an appointment will get their vaccination. Additional clinic spots will be opened up when confirmation of further vaccine deliveries is received. HPPH does not have a pre-registration system; when clinics open, all eligible groups can book an appointment.
- HPPH does not determine which vaccines are received and allocated for HPPH and Primary Care clinics; Pfizer-BioNtech is currently the COVID-19 vaccine available in the region currently for HPPH mass vaccination clinics but other vaccines may be used in future clinics in accordance with supply. There are two Primary Care-led clinics being offered in April that will administer AstraZeneca (see below).

- A very limited supply of Moderna vaccine has been distributed to Huron Perth 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.
- Select pharmacies are receiving and offering the AstraZeneca vaccine to adults aged 55 and older. They receive their vaccine supply separately from HPPH. The list of pharmacies administering vaccinations is available at: <https://covid-19.ontario.ca/vaccine-locations>. Please note that the 55+ eligibility for AstraZeneca through pharmacies is different than the eligibility list for HPPH immunization clinics which currently offer Pfizer. Since all COVID-19 vaccines approved by Health Canada are safe and effective, we encourage residents to take whichever vaccine for which they are eligible.
- Primary Care Providers in Huron Perth have worked together, with HPPH support, to offer two COVID vaccine clinics for residents 55+, using AstraZeneca vaccine. The clinics are April 20 in Goderich and April 22 in Stratford. These are age-based clinics only, with no other eligibility requirements. The AstraZeneca vaccine is part of the Huron Perth allotment for primary care use. *Note:* The clinics' 1300 appointments were fully booked within 6 hours and are now closed.
- In keeping with provincial direction, Huron Perth Public Health continues to maintain the time interval for second doses of COVID-19 vaccines at 16 weeks, allowing more first doses to be administered. The following groups should receive the COVID-19 vaccine at the dose interval as indicated in the product monographs:
 - Residents of long-term care homes, retirement homes, Elder Care Lodges and Assisted Living facilities, as these groups are at the greatest risk of both exposure to COVID-19 and serious illness and death.
 - Transplant recipients (including solid organ transplants and hematopoietic stem cell transplants).
 - Stable, active treatment for malignant hematologic disorders and non-hematologic solid tumour (excluding individuals receiving solely hormonal therapy or radiation therapy).
 - If you have one of the above two medical conditions, please contact your primary care provider.

ELIGIBILITY– See Complete List in Appendix A

Phase Two eligibility continues, dependent on vaccine supply. The province has provided specific direction regarding the order of eligible recipients in the [Guidance for Prioritization of Phase 2 Populations for COVID-19](#). However, due to limited vaccine supply at this time, further prioritization is being done at a regional level between Huron Perth Public Health, Middlesex London Health Unit and Southwestern Public Health.

New-April 15, 2021: Education workers who provide direct support to students with special needs

- In keeping with provincial direction, education staff in Huron Perth who provide direct support to students with complex special needs are now eligible for vaccine. These staff are defined as those who support students who meet one or more of the following criteria:
 - require support with activities of daily living, including health and safety measures
 - are unable to wear masks for medical reasons
 - have complex medical needs
 - cannot be accommodated through remote learning.

The school/school board determines which staff are eligible, and provides those staff with a letter confirming their eligibility. Eligible education staff will be able to access the HPPH booking system, however appointment availability is dependent on vaccine supply to HPPH. Other education staff in Huron-Perth are not able to book

yet, but will be eligible soon. In select hot spot areas in the province, all education workers are able to start booking the week of April 12. Huron Perth is not considered a hot spot at this time.

New-April 15, 2021: Immediate household/family members of Indigenous people who themselves are not Indigenous are also eligible to receive the vaccine.

CURRENT VACCINATION PROGRESS

- Phase 2 vaccination roll-out is underway: Adults 65 +, congregate settings (through mobile and mass vaccination clinics) and Individuals with Highest Risk Health Conditions.
- As of April 13, Huron Perth Public Health is reporting 30,298 vaccine doses administered.
- Public Health Ontario reports that as of April 3:
 - 16.3% of H-P residents have received at least 1 dose (provincial average 14.6%)
 - 2.9% of H-P residents have completed the vaccination series (provincial average 2.2%)
(source: COVID-19 Vaccine Uptake in Ontario: December 14, 2020 to April 3, 2021 | Public Health Ontario)
- HPPH will open eligibility to 60+ when vaccine supply becomes available.
- HPPH recognizes the need for school and childcare workers to receive their COVID-19 vaccine. We appreciate the continued patience and support, and will continue to communicate as we move through the eligible groups.

NOTES ON BOOKING APPOINTMENTS AT HPPH CLINICS

- Bookings for HPPH community clinics are being completed at this time only by HPPH.
- Anyone **eligible** for a vaccination, or a trusted individual acting on an eligible person's behalf, can contact the HPPH booking system at hpph.ca/vaccinebooking 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.
- 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.
- Residents are strongly encouraged to not book multiple appointments for one person; doing so slows down the booking system.
- Please cancel appointments that have been double booked or need to be rescheduled or cancelled. This will free up spots for other eligible residents. Cancellations can be done through email at: VaccineCancellation@hpph.ca or by calling HPPH Vaccine Booking line: 1-833-753-2098 and Press 2 for Cancellations.

Also remember

- **"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.
- 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.
- Anyone who has received a first dose, or both doses, of a COVID-19 vaccine must continue to follow all public health measures. Right now we know the vaccines will protect those who receive it from getting very sick with COVID-19. Until we learn otherwise, however, it is possible that someone who has been vaccinated could still pass the virus on to others. As long as COVID is still circulating in Ontario, it is important to continue public health measures, even if you are vaccinated.

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 subject to change. This reflects the evolving nature of COVID-19 and related supply chain logistics.

Note for Partners: 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.

APPENDIX A – ELIGIBILITY for HPPH Clinics (April 15, 2021)

- **New April 15, 2021: Education staff who provide direct in-person support to students with complex special needs**, defined as those who support students who meet one or more of the following criteria:
 - who require support with activities of daily living, including health and safety measures
 - are unable to wear masks for medical reasons
 - have complex medical needs
 - cannot be accommodated through remote learning.

Please note: Eligible staff will receive a letter from their school board confirming their eligibility.

- **Adults age 65 or older (born 1956 or earlier)**
- **Indigenous adults 16 years of age and older.**
New April 15, 2021: Immediate household/family members of Indigenous people who themselves are not Indigenous are also eligible to receive the vaccine.
- **Adults 16 years of age and older with the following highest-risk health conditions:**
 - Organ transplant recipients
 - Hematopoietic stem cell transplant recipients
 - Neurological diseases in which respiratory function may be compromised (e.g., motor neuron disease, myasthenia gravis, multiple sclerosis)
 - Haematological malignancy diagnosed <1 year
 - Kidney disease eGFR < 30
 - In addition, one (1) primary essential caregiver for an individual with an eligible highest-risk health conditions is now also eligible to receive the COVID-19 vaccine. Primary essential caregivers are individuals who provide regular and sustained assistance with personal care and/or activities of daily living.

Residents, Primary Essential Caregivers and Staff of High-Risk Congregate Living Settings

High-risk congregate living settings refer to residential facilities where a high-risk client population live or stay overnight and use shared spaces (e.g. common sleeping areas, shared bathrooms, shared kitchens, communal dining spaces). The settings are at higher risk of transmission.

Primary essential caregivers are individuals (who enter the congregate living setting) to provide regular and sustained assistance with personal care and/or activities of daily living.

Residents, Primary Essential Caregivers and Staff of High-Risk Congregate Living Settings in the following settings:

- Developmental services/intervenor which includes
- supported independent living (person lives independently and has support worker(s) who come into the home to assist.)
- Mental health and addictions congregate living
- Homes for special care (provincial program providing housing, meals and assistance with daily living for adults with a serious mental illness)
- Children's residential facilities
- Youth justice facilities
- Supportive housing (a setting where individuals are receiving care)
- Indigenous healing and wellness
- Bail beds and Indigenous bail beds
- Provincial and demonstration schools/Consortium Centre Jules-Leger

The following groups will be contacted directly by HPPH and partners to arrange vaccinations

These groups will also eventually be able to book on the HPPH system for an HPPH community clinic:

- Residents, Primary Essential Caregivers and Staff of High-Risk Congregate Living Settings in the following settings:
 - Emergency homeless shelters
 - Other homeless populations not in shelters
 - Employer-provided living accommodations for temporary foreign agricultural workers
 - Adult correctional facilities
 - Violence Against Women (VAW) shelters
 - Anti-Human Trafficking (AHT) residences
 - Inpatients on rehabilitation, complex care, geriatrics and mental health units
 - Primary essential caregivers are individuals who provide regular and sustained assistance with personal care and/or activities of daily living.
- **Faith leaders who as part of their regular role are at increased risk of exposure to COVID-19 through close contact with persons and families in the following circumstances:**
 - End of life care.
 - Care of the deceased, funerals, bathing, or other ceremony with direct contact with deceased persons.
 - Home visits to unwell persons.
 - Pastoral care in hospitals/LTCHs/RHs or other vulnerable settings.
- **All health care workers.**
 - Cohort is defined in further clarity in Appendix B.
- **Residents, staff, and essential caregivers associated with long-term care, retirement homes, and other congregate care settings for seniors, including assisted living facilities.**
 - Cohort is defined in further clarity in Appendix C.
- **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.**
- **Adults 16 years of age and older who are chronic home care recipients.**

APPENDIX B – Health Care Workers

Where a health sector has been named in the priority sector, all frontline workers in that sector are included (e.g., including students, registered volunteers, custodial, security and reception staff). Where a non-health setting has been named, only workers providing a health service or direct patient care are included.

Hospital and acute care health care workers in frontline roles with COVID-19 patients and/or with a high-risk of exposure to COVID-19. These individuals should be regularly scheduled staff (full time or part time) and not transient workers. The staff must be drawn from the following areas:

- Critical Care Units
- Emergency Departments and Urgent Care Departments
- COVID-19 Medical Units
- Code Blue Teams and rapid response teams
- General internal medicine and other specialists involved in the direct care of COVID-19 positive patients

Patient-facing health care workers involved in the COVID-19 response:

- COVID-19 Assessment Centers, including Mobile Testing Teams
- COVID-19 vaccine clinics and mobile immunization teams
- COVID-19 Isolation Centers
- COVID-19 Laboratory Services

Medical First Responders

- ORNGE, paramedics, firefighters and police providing medical first response

Patient-facing community health care workers serving specialized populations including:

- Needle exchange/syringe programs & supervised consumption and treatment services
- Aboriginal Health Access Centers, Indigenous Community Health Centers, Indigenous Interprofessional Primary Care Teams, and Indigenous Nurse Practitioner-Led Clinics
- Community Health Centers serving disproportionately affected communities and/or communities experiencing highest burden of health, social and economic impacts from COVID-19
- Home and community care health care workers caring for recipients of chronic homecare and seniors in congregate living facilities or providing hands-on care to COVID-19 patients.

Frontline healthcare workers working in hospital inpatient settings and hospital procedural areas, including surgical care, anesthesia, obstetrics, endoscopy, operating rooms, dialysis, imaging, chemotherapy, and radiotherapy.

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.

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).

APPENDIX C – Individuals associated with long-term care and retirement homes

- The following individuals associated with long-term care and retirement homes are eligible to receive the first-dose vaccines.
- Long-term care and retirement home residents.
- Long-term care and retirement home staff. ○ Includes LHIN, Hospital, Primary Care and Paramedic Services staff who are directly providing on-site support to LTCH and RHs in outbreak and have committed to a week or more of attending the facility.
- Essential caregivers in long-term care and retirement homes ○ A caregiver is a type of essential visitor who is designated by the resident and/or their substitute decision-maker and is visiting to provide direct care to the resident.
- Alternative level of care patients in hospitals who have a confirmed admission to LTCH, RH, or other congregate care home for seniors, as operationally feasible.