

## HPMVAC Update: May 6, 2021

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### WHAT'S NEW THIS WEEK

- Regional prioritization committee has disbanded, vaccination rollouts continue
- Eligibility groups expanded to include individuals ages 50 and up, as well as people who cannot work from home (remotely) who fall under Group One of Ontario's vaccine rollout plan
- PHAC announcement on age limits for Pfizer. HPPH clinics continue to administer Pfizer to ages 16 and older who qualify under a currently eligible designation (e.g. high risk health condition, eligible occupation)
- Additional HPPH clinic locations will begin in Huron and Perth counties in June 2021.

### VACCINATION PROGRAM IN HURON-PERTH

#### Vaccine eligibility

Phase Two eligibility continues, dependent on vaccine supply. On April 29, 2021, the Ministry of Health released an update to Ontario's COVID-19 vaccination plan. The updated plan outlined a Phase 2 schedule for COVID-19 vaccine booking eligibility and provided additional clarity regarding eligible groups.

Given this additional direction, the need for regional prioritization has waned. The COVID-19 Vaccine Prioritization Advisory Committee (Middlesex London Health Unit, Southwestern Public Health, Huron Perth Public Health) has voluntarily disbanded and will reconvene should the need arise. Eligibility updates will continue to be provided on respective health units' websites and disseminated widely.

New eligible groups for HPPH mass vaccination clinics have been added:

- Individuals age 50 or older (born 1971 or earlier)
- People who cannot work from home (remotely) who fall under Group One of Ontario's vaccine rollout plan.
  - Elementary and secondary school workers (including educators, custodial, school bus drivers, administrative staff)
  - Workers responding to critical events (including police, fire, special constables, children's aid society workers, emergency management, critical infrastructure, restoration workers)
  - Enforcement, inspection and compliance roles (including by-law enforcement, building inspectors, food inspectors, animal welfare inspectors, border inspection officers, labour inspectors/WSIB field workers)
  - Foster care agency workers (including customary care providers)
  - Food manufacturing and distribution workers
  - Agriculture and farm workers

- Funeral, crematorium and cemetery workers.
- Next available HPPH clinics are in mid-late May/early June. Additional clinic locations will be available in June – see “About HPPH clinics” for more details.
- See Complete Eligibility List in Appendix A
- We are aware that Health Canada has authorized the use of the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine in children 12 to 15 years of age.
- The province has not yet announced that individuals in this age group are eligible to receive vaccine. Please note that at the current time the HPPH booking system is **only allowing vaccination appointments for individuals ages 16 years and up who also qualify in a currently eligible designation (e.g. high risk health condition, eligible occupation, etc.)**. We are reviewing internally, and will widely communicate any updates on vaccination age limits once we receive direction from the province.

## Vaccine availability

- Huron Perth continues to administer every vaccine received.
- HPPH does not determine which vaccines are received and allocated for HPPH and Primary Care clinics; Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna are the COVID-19 vaccines available in the region currently for HPPH mass vaccination clinics.
  - Clients will be told at the clinic which vaccine is being provided that day.
  - Clients will receive a second dose of the same vaccine in 16 weeks (with some groups receiving second dose earlier).
  - Note: Both Pfizer and Moderna vaccines are mRNA vaccines
- 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.
- Pharmacies receive their AstraZeneca 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 40+ 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.

## Second doses

- 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.
    - Please note: the Ministry has not designated any eligible Assisted Living Facilities in Huron Perth to qualify for the dose interval indicated in product monographs.
  - 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.
- At this time, HPPH immunization clinics are not booking first and second-dose appointments at the

same time. You are responsible for booking your second dose appointment.

- You will be able to book your second dose when clinic dates open up during the time period you are eligible.
- Please watch our website closer to your eligible time for second dose for available clinics.
- You can use our second-dose calculator to determine when you will be due for your second dose.
- If there are any changes in this process we will communicate this (via webpage information and in the booking system).

## Current Vaccination progress

- As of May 6, there have been 50,085 vaccine doses administered in Huron and Perth counties by HPPH, primary care and pharmacies.
- The province set a target of 40% of the eligible population aged 18 and over to have at least one vaccine dose by May 1. We achieved 39.8% coverage in Huron Perth in those aged 18 + years by end of day April 30, using all the vaccine we have received.
- HPPH is now displaying vaccination coverage information on a separate dashboard available at our COVID-19 Data in Huron and Perth page. You can also directly visit the HPPH [COVID-19 Vaccination Coverage Dashboard](#).

## About HPPH Clinics

- We are pleased to announce additional locations for HPPH community clinics for the month of June. Thank you to all the municipal, primary care and healthcare partners who have made these clinics possible.
- Dates include:
  - Exeter: Thurs. June 17, Tues. June 29
  - Goderich: throughout June
  - Listowel: Wed. June 2, Wed. June 16
  - St. Marys: Wed. June 9, Wed. June 23
  - Stratford: throughout June
  - Wingham: Thurs. June 10, Thurs. June 24
- Clinic bookings are available for mid-late May to early June.
- Bookings for HPPH community clinics are being completed at this time only by HPPH.
  - HPPH does not have a pre-registration system; when clinics open, all eligible groups can book an appointment.
- 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](http://hpph.ca/vaccinebooking) or by calling 1-833-753-2098. Online booking is preferred due to high call volumes.
- 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](mailto:VaccineCancellation@hpph.ca) or by calling HPPH Vaccine Booking line: 1-833-753-2098 and Press 2 for Cancellations.
- **There are no walk-in, end-of-day doses available at HPPH clinics.** HPPH has a process for administering any end-of-day doses; this process involves a list of eligible vaccination candidates. Please do not come to an HPPH clinic if you do not have an appointment, as there will not be an opportunity to receive vaccine.

## 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](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.
- 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](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 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 (May 6, 2021)

- Individuals age 50 or older (born 1971 or earlier) **\*NEW**
- People who cannot work from home (remotely) who fall under Group One of Ontario's vaccine rollout plan. **\*NEW**
  - Elementary and secondary school workers (including educators, custodial, school bus drivers, administrative staff)
  - Workers responding to critical events (including police, fire, special constables, children's aid society workers, emergency management, critical infrastructure, restoration workers)
  - Enforcement, inspection and compliance roles (including by-law enforcement, building inspectors, food inspectors, animal welfare inspectors, border inspection officers, labour inspectors/WSIB field workers)
  - Foster care agency workers (including customary care providers)
  - Food manufacturing and distribution workers
  - Agriculture and farm workers
  - Funeral, crematorium and cemetery workers.
- Child care workers who are 18 years of age and older, defined specifically as:
  - Licensees, employees and students on an educational placement who interact directly with children in licensed child care centres and in authorized recreation and skill building programs.
  - Licensed home child care and in-home service providers, employees of a home child care agency and students on an educational placement who interact directly with children in a licensed home child care setting.
- **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.

- **Indigenous adults 16 years of age and older.**
  - 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
  - Obesity (BMI > 40)
  - Individuals who are pregnant at the time of vaccination
  - Intellectual or developmental disabilities (e.g., Down Syndrome)
  - Other treatments causing immunosuppression (e.g., chemotherapy, immunity weakening medications) \*
    - Individuals should speak to their treating provider to determine the most appropriate timing for administration of the first dose of vaccine.
  - One (1) primary essential caregiver for an individual with an eligible highest-risk or certain high-risk health condition.
    - A primary essential caregiver is an individual who provides 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
  - 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.
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- **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.
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- **All health care workers.**
    - Cohort is defined in further clarity in Appendix B.
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- **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.
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- **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.**
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- **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
- 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.