

HPMVAC Update: May 13, 2021

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WHAT'S NEW THIS WEEK

- Expanded eligibility for individuals 40 and older, adults 16 and older with at-risk health conditions, adults 16 and older who can't work from home (remotely), including Group Two of province's plan.
- Pause on AstraZeneca
- Shortened second-dose interval for eligible groups
- How to book second dose for extended or shortened dose interval

VACCINATION PROGRAM IN HURON-PERTH

Vaccine eligibility

- Phase Two eligibility continues, dependent on vaccine supply.
- New eligible groups for HPPH mass vaccination clinics have been added:
 - Individuals age 40 or older (born 1971 or earlier)
 - Adults 16 and older with at-risk health conditions such as dementia, diabetes and sickle cell disease
 - Adults 16 and older who cannot work from home (remotely), including the province's Group Two of people who cannot work from home (e.g. grocery store, restaurant and transportation workers)
- See Complete Eligibility List in Appendix A
- Health Canada has authorized the use of the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine in children 12 to 15 years of age.
 - 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.)**.
 - On May 13, the province announced that beginning the week of May 31, youth in Ontario between 12 and 17 years of age and their family members who have not received a vaccine will be eligible to book an appointment to receive their first dose of the Pfizer vaccine, including at special dedicated youth and family clinics throughout the weeks of June 14 and 21.
 - We are planning for the onboarding of these groups and will have more details about what this will look like in Huron Perth soon.

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
- On May 12, the province announced plans to ramp up supply of Pfizer and Moderna to pharmacies and Moderna to primary care settings. Please note these plans are in early stages and updates will be communicated widely.

Astra-Zeneca

- The province announced that Ontario will be pausing the rollout and administration of first doses of the AstraZeneca vaccine.
 - The decision was made out of an abundance of caution due to an observed increase in the rare blood clotting condition, known as vaccine-induced immune thrombotic thrombocytopenia (VITT), linked to the AstraZeneca vaccine. The rate of VITT increased from about 1 in 100,000 to 1.7 in 100,000 over the last few days.
 - The decision to pause the rollout was also based on the increased and reliable supply of the Pfizer and Moderna mRNA vaccines and the downward trend in cases in Ontario.
 - It is important to remember that although this vaccine poses a small safety risk, it is still effective at preventing severe illness, hospitalization and death due to COVID-19.
- The province has indicated it will provide more guidance around second doses for those who received a first dose of AstraZeneca. The Huron Perth Mass Vaccination Advisory Committee, which includes HPPH, pharmacy and primary care representatives, will follow provincial direction on second doses.

Second doses

ELIGIBILITY FOR SHORTENED DOSE INTERVAL

- At this time, HPPH immunization clinics are not automatically booking a second-dose appointment when a first appointment is made. You are responsible for booking your second dose appointment.
- 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 province has identified additional groups eligible for the shortened second dose interval (the dose interval as indicated in the product monographs).
- The following groups should receive the COVID-19 vaccine at the second 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.
 - Individuals undergoing hemodialysis or peritoneal dialysis
 - Indigenous adults
 - Eligible [high-risk health care workers](#)
 - Essential Caregivers of **only** long-term care and retirement homes
 - Please note: this does not include “primary essential caregivers” attached to other eligibilities (e.g. health conditions). Primary essential caregivers will receive their second dose of vaccine at the extended dose interval of 16 weeks.

How to book second dose for extended or shortened dose interval

- HPPH is currently booking second doses at our community clinics for those eligible.
- If you received your first dose through your primary care provider, please go ahead and book into a HPPH community clinic for your second dose.

Reminder emails

- We are sending reminder emails, where possible, to prompt people to book their second dose. The email will contain a link that goes directly to second-dose booking.
 - We are only able to send emails to those who have been vaccinated at an HPPH community clinic AND who provided us with an email address
 - Please check your junk folders, spam filters, etc. for this email. It will come from “invitation@chkmkt.com” from Huron Perth Public Health.
- Please note that even without an email, you can book a second dose if you are eligible. The email is just a helpful reminder and early notification of clinic appointment availability.
- If you have already received your second dose, please disregard the email reminder.

Booking for extended interval (~16 week schedule)

- Anyone not eligible for the shortened second dose interval can receive their second dose at the extended interval (about 16 weeks).
- We are administering extended dose interval doses between 14.5 – 16 weeks after first dose.
- If you can't book a clinic spot at 16 weeks, please book an appointment for the closest time.
- If you book an appointment for earlier than 14.5 weeks and you do not qualify for the earlier dose schedule you will be turned away at clinic.
- Go to the [HPPH Second Dose Calculator](#) to find out when you can receive your second dose. Then visit the HPPH booking system at www.hpph.ca/vaccinebooking.
- If your earliest possible second dose date falls within the range of an upcoming HPPH clinic, please book an appointment.
- You can also subscribe to www.hpph.ca/vaccinebooking to get alerts when new clinics are added.

Shortened second dose interval (original dose schedule)

- As vaccine supply increases, the province is expanding eligibility for the shortened second dose interval. We are adding these changes as quickly as we can and will reach out to groups as more are added.
- A list of who is eligible for a shortened second dose interval can be found at www.hpph.ca/vaccinebooking
- High-Risk Health Care Workers: eligible high-risk health care workers will receive an email notice from their employer/health care organization notifying them about this update in eligibility and instructions on booking appointments.
- Eligible high-risk health care workers **and anyone else eligible for a shortened second dose interval** can also book an appointment through our website www.hpph.ca/vaccinebooking.
 - Go to the [HPPH Second Dose Calculator](#) to find out when you can receive your second dose. Then visit the HPPH booking system at www.hpph.ca/vaccinebooking.
 - If your earliest possible second dose date falls within the range of an upcoming HPPH clinic, please book an appointment.
 - You can also subscribe to www.hpph.ca/vaccinebooking to get alerts when new clinics are added.

Mobile clinics and/or homebound patients: HPPH is following up with those organizations and groups regarding second doses.

Current Vaccination progress

- As of May 12, there have been 53,097 vaccine doses administered in Huron and Perth counties by HPPH and

partners, primary care and pharmacies.

- Vaccination coverage in Huron-Perth continues to be on par with the province. Public Health Ontario reports that as of May 1:
 - 34.7 % of H-P residents have received at least 1 dose (provincial average 33.3%)
 - 3.1% of H-P residents have completed the vaccination series (provincial average 2.5%)
 - [Source: Public Health Ontario | COVID-19 Vaccine Uptake in Ontario: December 14, 2020 to May 1, 2021]
- HPPH updates Huron-Perth 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

- Clinic bookings are available for early to mid-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 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 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. 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 First Dose at HPPH Clinics (May 13, 2021)

- Individuals age 40 or older (born 1971 or earlier) ***NEW**

- Adults 16 and older with the following At-risk health conditions: ***NEW**
 - Immune deficiencies and autoimmune disorders
 - Stroke and cerebrovascular disease
 - Dementia
 - Diabetes
 - Liver disease
 - All other cancers
 - Respiratory diseases, such as asthma, bronchitis, pneumonia, pleurisy
 - Spleen problems, such as asplenia
 - Heart disease
 - Hypertension with end organ damage
 - Diagnosed mental disorder
 - Substance use disorders
 - Sickle cell disease
 - Thalassemia
 - Immunocompromising health conditions
 - Other disabilities requiring direct support care in the community

- Adults 16 and older who work in an essential workplace who cannot work from home or remotely, including Group Two of Ontario's vaccine rollout plan (please note: this list is not exhaustive): ***NEW**
 - Individuals working in childcare: Unlicensed childcare settings
 - Essential and critical retail workers (including grocery, food bank, pharmacy, Service Ontario, Service Canada, Passport Canada, wholesalers and general goods, restaurant, LCBO workers)
 - Workers in manufacturing industries directly involved in supporting the COVID-19 response, construction (including infrastructure) and other essential businesses and services where facilities are at heightened risk for COVID-19 outbreaks and spread
 - Social workers and social services staff who provide in-person client services (including youth justice workers, Ontario Works and Ontario Disability Support Program case workers)
 - Courts and justice system workers (including probation and parole workers)
 - Transportation, warehousing and distribution workers (including public transit workers, truck drivers supporting essential services, marine and rail cargo and maintenance, highway maintenance)
 - Electricity (including system operations, generation, transmission, distribution and storage workers)

- Communications infrastructure workers (including cellular, satellite, landline, internet, public safety radio)
 - Water and wastewater management workers
 - Financial services workers (bank branch staff)
 - Veterinarians and veterinary teams
 - Waste management workers
 - Oil and petroleum workers (including petroleum refineries, crude oil and petroleum storage, transmission and distribution, retail sale of fuel)
 - Natural gas and propane gas workers (including compression, storage, transmission and distribution of natural gas and propane)
 - Mine workers (including those needed to ensure the continued operation of active mines)
 - Uranium processing workers (those working in the refining and conversion of uranium and fabrication of fuel for nuclear power plants)
- 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.
- 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.
- **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
- 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.

APPENDIX D – Individuals eligible for shortened second-dose interval

The following groups should receive the COVID-19 vaccine at the second 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.
- Individuals undergoing hemodialysis or peritoneal dialysis ***NEW**
- Indigenous adults ***NEW**
- Eligible [high-risk health care workers](#) ***NEW**
- Essential Caregivers of long-term care and retirement homes ***NEW**
 - Please note: this does not include primary essential caregivers. Primary essential caregivers will receive their second dose of vaccine at the extended dose interval of 16 weeks.