

HPMVAC Update: June 18, 2021

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VACCINATION PROGRAM IN HURON-PERTH

Vaccine eligibility

- Phase Two eligibility continues, dependent on vaccine supply.
- Individuals age 12 or older are eligible for Pfizer-BioNTech (must be minimum 12 years or older at time of vaccination)
- Individuals age 18 or older are eligible for Moderna (must be minimum 18 years or older at time of vaccination)
- See Complete Eligibility List in Appendix A

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.
- Several pharmacies also offer Pfizer or Moderna vaccines. Please visit [COVID-19 Pharmacy Vaccine Locations](#) to learn more.
- Pfizer and Moderna are interchangeable.
 - The Public Health Agency of Canada and the Ontario Ministry of Health have endorsed the interchangeability of Pfizer and Moderna mRNA vaccines. This means that you can receive one of these vaccine products for your first dose and the other vaccine product for your second dose. You will still gain safe and highly effective protection against the COVID-19 virus, including the variants of concern, when mixing these products. Many of our neighbouring regions have moved to mix mRNA vaccines and we expect this to continue to be common practice moving forward.
 - “Mixing” vaccines is not a new concept. For example, similar vaccines from different manufacturers are sometimes used to complete a vaccine series for influenza, hepatitis A and

other illnesses.

- Know which vaccine to expect
 - If you would like to receive a specific vaccine, then book into an HPPH clinic that offers that vaccine. This information is available on our website and booking tool. However, due to supply changes, we cannot always guarantee the availability of a specific product. In that case, we will offer an appropriate alternative. You can then decide if you wish to proceed and receive the vaccine.
 - All clinics on the website now show which vaccine is expected to be administered. If you want to rebook into a different clinic, you must first cancel your current appointment.
- Make your second dose a priority.
 - Whether it's the same vaccine series or a mix of two vaccines, being fully vaccinated is extremely valuable. Two doses of vaccine provide very good protection against COVID-19 and variants, including the Delta variant. And as more and more community members become fully vaccinated, the more people are protected and the closer the pandemic is to ending.

Second doses

For individuals who received mRNA vaccine as first dose

- HPMVAC and partners are gradually introducing shortened second-dose intervals for people who received an mRNA (Pfizer or Moderna) vaccine as their first dose.
- Shortened interval means that you are eligible to receive your second dose less than 16 weeks after your first dose, based on appointment availability and vaccine supply. The absolute minimum shortened second dose interval is the interval listed on the product monograph.
- **These shortened intervals apply to people who have received an mRNA vaccine (Pfizer or Moderna) as their first dose. Please see AstraZeneca section for further information on second doses for AstraZeneca.**
- Vaccination appointments can be made at HPPH clinics or pharmacies.
- Currently the following groups, who have received an mRNA vaccine as their first dose, can book their second dose appointment for a future HPPH clinic at a shortened interval:
 - Individuals aged 70 and older (born in 1951 or earlier)
 - Anyone who received their first vaccine dose on or before May 9, 2021.
- The above groups can also contact a participating pharmacy for a second dose appointment at a shortened interval
- Certain medical conditions are not only eligible for the shortened interval, but should be done as close as possible to the interval on the product monograph.
 - If you are eligible due to the following conditions:
 - Individuals on immunosuppressive therapy who are taking an anti-CD20 agent (e.g., rituximab, ocrelizumab, ofatumumab)
 - Please speak to your healthcare provider first, as they can help you with the best timing for your vaccine given your treatment plan.
 - Transplant recipients (including solid organ transplants and hematopoietic stem cell transplants)
 - Malignant hemotologic disorders on immunocompromising therapy (chemotherapy, targeted therapies, immunotherapy)
 - Nonhemotologic malignant solid tumors on immunocompromising therapy (chemotherapy, targeted therapies, immunotherapy); excludes individuals receiving solely hormonal therapy or radiation therapy
 - And your first dose of vaccine was mRNA (Pfizer or Moderna), then we will try to book you as close to product monograph as possible. Call HPPH if an appointment time within 28 days (of your first dose) is not available.

For individuals who received AstraZeneca as first dose

- If you received AstraZeneca as your first dose, you should receive your second vaccine (AZ or an mRNA) 8-12 weeks later for optimal immune response. (Note the interval related to mRNA 2nd doses may change with the availability of supply). Some people, in consultation with their health care provider, may need to book earlier than 8-12 weeks due to their medical treatment schedule.
- Ontarians who received their first dose of the AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine can choose to either receive a second dose of the AstraZeneca vaccine, or an mRNA (Pfizer or Moderna) vaccine for their second dose.
 - Both of these options are safe and provide strong protection against COVID-19. In addition, they will count as a completed vaccine series.
 - Both options are at a recommended 8-12-week interval except for the following:
 - An individual should talk to their healthcare provider if they have one of the following conditions and an 8-12-week interval would affect the timing of their treatment:
 - Individuals on Immunosuppressive Therapy - Individuals in the authorized age group who are taking an anti-CD20 agent (e.g., rituximab, ocrelizumab, ofatumumab)
 - 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).
 - Individuals undergoing hemodialysis or peritoneal dialysis
 - Early eligibility also applies to
 - Residents in Long-term Care Homes, Retirement Homes, Elder Care Lodges, Assisted Living facilities
 - All First Nations, Inuit & Metis (including non-Indigenous partners, immediate household members and adolescents aged 12-17)
 - [Eligible high-risk health care workers](#)
- Opting for AstraZeneca as your second dose:
 - Individuals who received their first dose of the AstraZeneca vaccine and who would like their second dose of the AstraZeneca vaccine (provided at the 8 to 12-week interval), can contact the pharmacy where they received their first dose to book an appointment.
 - Anyone who went to the April 20 or April 22 Primary Care AstraZeneca clinics in Goderich or Stratford can contact a participating local pharmacy that may have AstraZeneca second doses.
 - **Bayfield:** [Pharmasave Michael's Pharmacy](#)
 - **Exeter:** [Your Independent Grocer](#)
 - **Goderich:** [Pharmasave Michael's Pharmacy](#)
 - **Listowel:** [Listowel Remedy's Rx](#)
 - **Mitchell:** [Walther's IDA Pharmacy](#)
 - **St. Marys:** [Jackson's Guardian Pharmacy](#)
 - Please visit <https://covid-19.ontario.ca/vaccine-locations> for a list of other participating pharmacies across the province who may have AstraZeneca.
 - If you're not able to get to a participating pharmacy and you want AstraZeneca as your second dose, contact your primary care provider.
- Opting for an mRNA vaccine as your second dose:
 - Eligible individuals who received their first dose of the AstraZeneca vaccine and would like a second dose of mRNA vaccine (provided at the 8 to 12-week interval) can schedule their second dose appointment at a future HPPH clinic through the HPPH online or telephone booking system.
OR
 - Individuals may also book their second dose appointment at a participating pharmacy where the Pfizer or Moderna vaccines are administered.
OR
 - Visit your primary care provider's website or contact the office for details on how they are administering

vaccines.

How to book second dose for extended or shortened dose interval

- HPPH does not book second dose appointments when you get your first dose. You must book your second dose once you are eligible.
- Use the [HPPH second dose calculator](#) to find out when you can receive your second dose. If you don't qualify for the shortened dose interval, then you will be eligible to receive your second dose between 14.5-16 weeks after your first dose.
- Once you know your earliest appointment date, visit the HPPH booking system at www.hpph.ca/vaccinebooking or call 1-833-753-2098 to see available clinics.
 - If your earliest possible second dose date falls within the date range of an upcoming HPPH clinic, please book an appointment. If clinics are not yet available during the time you are due for your second dose, please check back for future clinics.
 - You can also subscribe to the booking webpage to get alerts when new clinics are added.
- If you received your first dose through your primary care provider or at an HPPH community clinic, and are eligible for a shortened dose interval, please go ahead and book at an HPPH community clinic for your second dose OR visit your primary care provider's website or contact the office for details on how they are administering vaccines.
- If you book an appointment before your earliest possible appointment date, and you do not qualify for the earlier dose schedule, you will be turned away at the clinic.

Current Vaccination progress

- As of June 18, we are reporting 103,404 vaccine doses administered in Huron Perth by HPPH and partners, primary care and pharmacies.
- For Huron Perth residents, 90,396 or 74.4% have received one dose of vaccine, and 18,659 or 15.4% are fully vaccinated.
- 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

- Due to increased supply, HPPH is offering three primarily Moderna clinics (June 21, 22 and 25). These clinics are only open to those 18 years of age or older.
- HPPH clinics are currently booking appointments for other clinics into the first two weeks of July.
- Over the next few weeks HPPH and partners will welcome about 4,000 youth ages 12-17 to our vaccination clinics
- Please remember that there are no walk-in, same-day doses available at HPPH clinics. Please do not come to an HPPH clinic if you have not been given an appointment time, as there will not be an opportunity to receive vaccine.
- Book an appointment at www.hpph.ca/vaccinebooking or by calling 1-833-753-2098. Online booking is recommended due to high call volumes.
- We thank everyone who are cancelling unneeded appointments as we still need to reduce no-shows. Please continue to cancel any unneeded appointments. A new feature has been added to the website to easily cancel appointments. Go to <http://www.hpph.ca/vaccinebooking> and choose the [Click Here to Cancel your Appointment](#) box or call the booking line at 1-833-753-2098; press 2 (two). Please include your first and last name and the date, time, and location of your scheduled appointment.
- HPPH continues to add vaccine clinics as vaccine supply is confirmed. Please check our website for latest clinic availability.
- If possible, please bring a completed Consent form that you received with your booking confirmation.

Also remember

- **“Once eligible, always eligible”** 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 because a significant number of our population must be vaccinated with both doses to provide enough protection. 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

- Individuals age 12 or older (must be at least 12 years old or older) for Pfizer-BioNTech vaccination
- Individuals age 18 or older for Moderna vaccination

APPENDIX B – Individuals eligible for shortened second-dose interval

For individuals who received mRNA vaccine as first dose

The following groups, if they have received an mRNA vaccine (Pfizer or Moderna) as a first dose, are eligible to receive the COVID-19 vaccine at a shortened second dose interval (less than 16 weeks after first dose), depending on vaccine supply

- Anyone who received their first vaccine dose on or before May 9, 2021.
- Individuals aged 70 and older (born in 1951 or earlier)
- 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.
- Indigenous adults
- Eligible [high-risk health care workers](#)
- Essential Caregivers of long-term care and retirement homes
 - 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.

Groups who should receive second dose as close to product monograph as possible:

- Individuals on Immunosuppressive Therapy - Individuals in the authorized age group who are taking an anti-CD20 agent (e.g., rituximab, ocrelizumab, ofatumumab)
 - Please speak to your healthcare provider first, as they can help you with the best timing for your vaccine given your treatment plan.
- 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

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