

HPMVAC Update: August 26, 2021

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What's new this week

- Vaccine eligibility – individuals turning 12 in 2021
- Vaccine eligibility for third doses (see: Booster doses and re-immunization)
- Provincial announcement on COVID-19 Policies (see: Information for healthcare providers and pharmacists)
- September vaccination plans for Huron Perth

Vaccine eligibility

- Individuals turning 12 in 2021 and older are eligible for Pfizer-BioNTech.
- Individuals age 18 or older are eligible for either Moderna (must be minimum 18 years or older) or Pfizer-BioNTech.
- Individuals who received their 1st dose of mRNA vaccine, are eligible to book a second dose 28 days after their first dose.
- See a complete eligibility list for second doses in Appendix A.
- The Ontario government recently announced that certain individuals are now eligible for third doses of vaccine, including those with specific medical conditions as well as residents of Long-term Care Homes and eligible Retirement Homes. Please see Appendix B for a complete list of who is eligible for a third dose.
 - These vulnerable populations have been identified for a third dose because they have a decreased immune response after COVID-19 vaccines compared to the general population.
 - HPPH is working with partners to arrange vaccinations for Long-term Care and eligible higher risk Retirement Homes.
 - Those with specific medical conditions are encouraged to check with their treating specialist, pharmacist or physician/nurse practitioner about their eligibility. People who are eligible can get a third dose at a HPPH clinic. They will be asked to attest to their medical condition that makes them eligible, and that they have received direction from their health care provider to receive a third dose.

Vaccination status and eased screening/isolation requirements

- If you are a high-risk contact and you are **fully vaccinated**, you do not have to self-isolate as long as you don't have COVID-19 symptoms and have not been told by public health to isolate.
 - The risk of a fully vaccinated individual acquiring and transmitting infection is much lower than someone who is not fully vaccinated.
 - Fully vaccinated means that it has been at least 14 days since you received your second dose of a two-dose COVID-19 vaccine series.
 - Please note: there are some exceptions where public health may advise fully vaccinated close contacts to isolate if necessary. Some workplace polices may go above and beyond this guidance.
- There are some exemptions to travel entry requirements (e.g. quarantine) for fully vaccinated travellers coming to Canada. Learn more about fully vaccinated traveler exemptions and eligibility here: <https://travel.gc.ca/travel-covid>

Vaccination opportunities in Huron-Perth

HPPH

- HPPH and our partners continue to transition away from large community vaccination clinics to smaller clinics in more locations across Huron-Perth. We are providing more options to make it easier for people to get first and second doses, including walk-ins, evening hours, pop-up locations and drive-thru clinics.
- For walk-in vaccinations and appointment opportunities visit www.hpph.ca/vaccinebooking or call 1-833-753-2098 for information. Clinics are offering first and second doses.
 - Clinics will primarily administer the Pfizer vaccine, unless otherwise specified.
 - We have a small amount of Moderna available at our clinics as well.
 - Appointments can still be booked for some clinics as well. This can be done online at www.hpph.ca/vaccinebooking, or by calling 1-833-753-2098.
 - Follow us on Facebook, Twitter or Instagram for the latest updates.
 - www.facebook.com/HuronPerthPublicHealth
 - www.twitter.com/HPPublicHealth
 - www.instagram.com/huronperthpublichealth
- HPPH will continue to offer vaccinations through smaller, pop-up locations across Huron Perth, including in Stratford and Goderich.
- To cancel an appointment, 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.
- If possible, please bring a completed Consent form found at www.hpph.ca/vaccinebooking under "Before your appointment".
 - Please note:
 - If coming for your second dose, it must be at least 28 days since your first mRNA dose.
 - Bring your health card with you, if you have one. Bring a mask and wear a short-sleeved shirt. Please dress for the weather, you may have to wait outside.
 - Third Dose: Those with specific medical conditions are encouraged to check with their treating specialist, pharmacist or physician/nurse practitioner about their eligibility. People who are eligible can get a third dose at a HPPH clinic. They will be asked to attest to their medical condition that makes them eligible, and that they have received direction from their health care provider to receive a third dose.

Pharmacies

- Check with your local pharmacy for possible walk-in opportunities. A list of pharmacies that offer COVID-19 vaccinations can be found at [COVID-19 Pharmacy Vaccine Locations](#).

Current Vaccination progress

- As of August 22, we are reporting 187,777 vaccine doses administered in Huron Perth by HPPH and partners.
- For Huron Perth residents aged 12 and over, 79.4% have received one dose of vaccine, and 72.4% are fully vaccinated.
- On August 9, we marked a milestone in having administered 100,000 first vaccine doses to individuals aged 12 and over in Huron Perth
- HPPH updates Huron-Perth vaccination coverage information on our COVID-19 Data in Huron and Perth page. Here is a direct link to the dashboard: [COVID-19 Vaccination Coverage Dashboard](#).
- The provincial government, in consultation with the Chief Medical Officer of Health, is pausing the exit from the Roadmap to Reopen. Data will be monitored to determine when it is safe to exit the Roadmap and lift the majority of public health and workplace safety measures currently in place.
- HPMVAC continues to encourage all vaccinations, particularly for younger residents.
 - For Huron Perth residents under the age of 40, first dose coverage rates range from 62.5% to about 65.7%, and second dose coverage rates for these age groups is about 52.1% to 56.5%. This means that a significant proportion of the population is susceptible to contracting COVID-19 and to spreading the virus to others.
 - Along with protecting yourself and your loved ones from COVID-19, there are benefits to being fully vaccinated, especially before school resumes again in September (see notes on [Screening and Isolation Requirements](#) above).
 - HPMVAC encourages all eligible students to become fully vaccinated as soon as possible.

Vaccine mixing

- Pfizer and Moderna are interchangeable mRNA COVID-19 vaccines, as endorsed by the Public Health Agency of Canada, the National Advisory Committee on Immunization (NACI), and the Ontario Ministry of Health. This means that you can receive one vaccine for your first dose and the other vaccine for your second dose.
- Being fully vaccinated is very important. Two doses of vaccine – whether the same product or a mix of two vaccines – provides safe and highly effective protection against the COVID-19 virus and variants, including the highly transmissible Delta variant. It will also count as a completed vaccination series in Ontario.
- HPMVAC strongly encourages everyone to get their vaccine as soon as possible, and to make their second dose a priority. The more people who are fully vaccinated, the less chance of COVID-19 spreading in our communities, especially now with the Delta Variant.

Second doses

- HPPH clinics will administer Moderna or Pfizer, and will identify clinics as such.
- At this time only Pfizer can be provided to youth 12-17, in keeping with age requirements.
- Please see Appendix A for more information on second-dose eligibility, including those who should be vaccinated as close to product monograph as possible.

For individuals who received mRNA vaccine as first dose

- Anyone aged 12 or over, who received an mRNA vaccine (Pfizer or Moderna) as their first dose, can get their second dose at least 28 days after their first dose.

For individuals who received AstraZeneca as first dose

- See our website for information: www.hpph.ca/vaccine

How to get a second dose

- 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.
- Visit www.hpph.ca/vaccinebooking or call 1-833-753-2098 to learn about the current vaccination locations

and opportunities.

- You can also book an appointment for a vaccination at a participating pharmacy. You can see a list of local pharmacies and which vaccine they are administering by visiting www.ontario.ca/pharmacycovidvaccine.

How to register a vaccination received outside of Ontario or Canada

- If you have received one or more doses of a COVID-19 vaccine outside of the Province of Ontario, you should provide your proof of immunization to Huron Perth Public Health. HPPH will add it to COVaxON, the provincial vaccination system.
- Ensuring vaccination information is up-to-date allows individuals to:
 - Book a second dose appointment (for those who have only received one dose of a two-dose vaccine).
 - Receive an Ontario vaccination receipt which can be used to show immunization status.
 - Share their COVID-19 immunization records with their health care providers and for other uses required by provincial law.
- Having more complete vaccination coverage information also helps the province as it uses vaccination coverage to help inform re-opening plans.
- Easily register vaccinations received outside of Ontario or Canada at www.hpph.ca/vaccine and click the button that says “Submit your **COVID-19 Out-of-Province Dose Documentation**”.

Third doses and re-immunization

- Two doses of the COVID-19 vaccine provides strong protection against COVID-19 including against the Delta variant. However, a third dose may be recommended for specific populations to boost protection and increase immune response. Please see Appendix B for a list of who will be eligible for a third dose at this time.
- Third Dose: Those with specific medical conditions are encouraged to check with their treating specialist, pharmacist or physician/nurse practitioner about their eligibility. People who are eligible can get a third dose at a HPPH clinic. They will be asked to attest to their medical condition that makes them eligible, and that they have received direction from their health care provider to receive a third dose.
- For individuals who are not included in the groups listed in Appendix B, there is currently no evidence on the need for booster doses of COVID-19 vaccine after a series is complete. However, with the emergence of Variants of Concern, vaccine effectiveness may be decreased and it is possible that additional vaccine doses may be necessary as research continues.
- The Ontario Ministry of Health and NACI are closely following the ongoing research on the safety and effectiveness of a third dose. For more information see [NACI: Recommendations on the use of COVID-19 vaccines](#).

Booster doses for travel

- In Canada, decisions around travel requirements for entry into Canada are made at a federal level.
- Only essential travel is recommended at this time. [Read the Government of Canada’s travel advisories related to COVID-19](#)
- Countries are developing their own travel related approaches for visitors entering their countries, and decisions are made by each individual country which vaccines and combinations they recognize.
- Mixing vaccines is safe and effective. Full vaccination is the greatest protection you can have against COVID-19 and its variants, including the Delta variant. Know that if you received a mixed dose schedule, being fully vaccinated means that you are well protected from COVID-19 infection.
- Please check the travel requirements for your travel destination in regards to recognized vaccine combinations. You can also speak with your travel agent. Check back regularly as guidance and requirements may change.

Information for healthcare providers and pharmacists

- Vaccination policies: On August 17th the province announced mandatory COVID-19 vaccination policies for high-risk settings to protect vulnerable patients and staff in settings where the risk of contracting and transmitting COVID-19 and the Delta variant is higher.
 - For more information see: [Ontario makes COVID-19 vaccination policies mandatory for high-risk settings](#)
- If an individual has received the recommended dose(s) of a COVID-19 vaccine that has not been approved by Health Canada but is listed for emergency use by the WHO (e.g. Sinopharm, Janssen), this will be considered as valid dose(s). We do not recommend additional doses at this time. These individuals should submit their documentation to the HPPH online form and we will enter into COVax ON.
- More information can be found here: [COVID-19 Guidance for Individuals Vaccinated outside of Ontario/Canada](#)
- WHO list of approved vaccines is at bottom of this page: [COVID-19 vaccines | World Health Organization](#)

How to get provincial vaccination receipts

- After each dose of the COVID-19 vaccine that you get, you will be able to log into the provincial portal to download and or print an electronic COVID-19 vaccine receipt. The vaccine receipt will be a PDF document.
- You will need the following to log into the provincial portal:
 - A green photo health (OHIP) card (you will need the numbers from the front and back of the card, expired cards will be accepted)
 - Your date of birth
 - Your postal code that is associated with your health card
- Access the portal to download your vaccination receipts at: <https://covid19.ontariohealth.ca/> (please note there is **no** www in this web address)

Also remember

- Anyone who has received a first dose, or both doses, of a COVID-19 vaccine must continue to follow all public health measures as described in Reopening Ontario legislation 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. Updated provincial guidance for fully vaccinated individuals is pending.

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 – Individuals eligible for shortened second-dose interval

- Individuals who are 12 or older, and have received their 1st dose of mRNA vaccine.

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
- Individuals with an imminent start date for any of above therapies or treatments.

For individuals who received AstraZeneca vaccine 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 to 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 to 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
 - Individuals with an imminent start date for any of above therapies or treatments.

Appendix B: Individuals Eligible for Third Dose of COVID-19 Vaccine

Third dose eligibility includes individuals with the following conditions:

- Transplant recipients (including solid organ transplant and hematopoietic stem cell transplants)
- Patients with hematological cancers (examples include lymphoma, myeloma, leukemia) on active treatment (chemotherapy, targeted therapies, immunotherapy) for malignant hematologic disorders
- Recipients of an anti-CD20 agent (e.g. rituximab, ocrelizumab, ofatumumab)
- Residents of high-risk congregate settings including long-term care homes, higher-risk licensed retirement homes and First Nations elder care lodges.