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# Huron Perth COVID-19 Vaccination

## HPMVAC Update: Oct. 7, 2021

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### What's new in this update

- Vaccination requirements for anyone over the age of 12 who enters an indoor area of a sports or recreational fitness facility to participate in, coach, officiate, or watch organized sport. The requirement will come into effect on October 31.
- October calendar of HPPH vaccination clinics now available.

### 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.
- 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 the "Third Dose" section in this memo, as well as Appendix B for a complete list of who is eligible for a third dose.

## Proof of vaccination requirements

### Provincial requirements

- As of Sept. 22, the Ontario government requires people to be fully vaccinated and provide proof of their vaccination status to access certain businesses and settings. This approach focuses on indoor public settings where face coverings cannot always be worn and where the risk of COVID-19 transmission is higher, including:
  - Restaurants, bars and nightclubs
  - Meeting and event spaces
  - Facilities used for sports and fitness activities and personal fitness training
  - Sporting events
  - Casinos, bingo halls and gaming establishments
  - Concerts, music festivals, theatres and cinemas
- There are some exemptions to the above requirement, including people who access only certain parts of settings, people with a documented medical exemption to COVID-19 vaccination, and people under 12 years old who are not yet eligible for vaccination. For a full list, and details, of exemptions, please see **Proof of Vaccination Guidance for Businesses and Organizations under the Reopening Ontario Act**
- The province is planning for an enhanced vaccine certificate with QR code to be launched October 22.
- See below for information on how to get a provincial vaccination receipt.

### HPPH Letter of Instruction for facilities used for organized sport **\*new**

- Huron Perth Public Health, the Middlesex-London Health Unit and Southwestern Public Health will require proof of COVID-19 vaccination or a valid medical exemption for anyone over the age of 12 who enters an indoor area of a sports or recreational fitness facility to participate in, coach, officiate, or watch organized sport. The requirement will come into effect on October 31.
- HPPH has issued a Letter of Instruction to the owners and operators of facilities in the communities they serve, where organized sports are played or practised. The Letter of Instruction can be found on [hpph.ca/covid](http://hpph.ca/covid).
- This requirement does not apply to school sports. HPPH continues to monitor local case rates, including in schools, and works closely with school boards to provide recommendations on making sports safer.

## How to get provincial vaccination receipts

- At any time you can download and print your vaccine receipts through the provincial portal at [covid19.ontariohealth.ca/](https://covid19.ontariohealth.ca/) (please note there is **no** www in this web address)
- 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
- If you need help getting a copy of your receipt (online or a print copy) call the Provincial Vaccine Contact Centre at 1-833-943-3900.
- Public libraries across Huron Perth are also offering to help people print their vaccine receipt.
- One Care Community Support Services is able to help people access their receipt as well: 1-844-482-7800.

## Fully vaccinated individuals and screening/isolation

- 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: [travel.gc.ca/travel-covid](https://travel.gc.ca/travel-covid)

## Vaccination opportunities in Huron-Perth

### HPPH

- HPPH has released its October schedule of clinics, including bookable clinics, walk-ins, evening hours, and pop-up locations.
- For walk-in vaccinations and appointment opportunities visit [hpph.ca/walkin](https://hpph.ca/walkin) or call 1-833-753-2098 for information.
  - 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 [hpph.ca/vaccinebooking](https://hpph.ca/vaccinebooking), or by calling 1-833-753-2098.
  - Follow us on Facebook, Twitter or Instagram for the latest updates.
    - [facebook.com/HuronPerthPublicHealth](https://facebook.com/HuronPerthPublicHealth)
    - [twitter.com/HPPublicHealth](https://twitter.com/HPPublicHealth)
    - [instagram.com/huronperthpublichealth](https://instagram.com/huronperthpublichealth)
- If possible, please bring a completed Client Information Sheet (consent form) found at [hpph.ca/vaccinebooking](https://hpph.ca/vaccinebooking) under "Walk-in opportunities" and "Book an 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.

### 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 October 4, we are reporting 200,530 vaccine doses administered in Huron Perth by HPPH and partners.
- For Huron Perth residents aged 12 and over, 83.7% have received one dose and 78.7% are fully

- vaccinated.
- From the Sept 26th web posting to the Oct 4th web posting, there was an increase in 612 (32%) 1st dose shots and an increase in 1291 (68%) 2nd dose shots. Total increase in shots was 1903.
- 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 vaccinations for younger in residents in particular. Coverage rates for residents 40 and younger are lower than other age brackets.

## Second doses

- Please see Appendix A for more information on second-dose eligibility, including those who should be vaccinated as close to product monograph as possible.
- Anyone aged 12 (turning 12 in 2021) 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.
  - At this time only Pfizer can be provided to youth turning 12 in 2021 to 17 years old, in keeping with age requirements.
- Please note: HPPH does not book second dose appointments when you get your first dose.

## For individuals who received AstraZeneca as first dose

- See our website for information: [hpph.ca/vaccine](http://hpph.ca/vaccine)

## Third doses

- Two doses of the COVID-19 vaccine provides strong protection against COVID-19 including against the Delta variant. However, a third dose has been recommended for specific populations to boost protection and increase immune response. 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.
- Please see Appendix B for a list of who is eligible for a third dose at this time.
- Those with specific medical conditions (see Appendix B) must check with their treating specialist, pharmacist or healthcare practitioner about their eligibility for a third dose.
  - Those who are eligible due to the specified medical conditions may receive a 3<sup>rd</sup> dose at a minimum of eight weeks after their second dose.
  - Residents of long-term care homes and higher risk retirement homes are eligible for a third dose at a minimum of 5 months after their second dose.
  - Those eligible for a third dose can receive their third dose through their primary care provider or at an HPPH clinic (by appointment or walk-in). Local participating pharmacies should be able to begin providing third doses as well shortly.
    - Please note: if coming to a HPPH clinic for a third dose, you will be asked for documentation from your healthcare provider or to attest to your medical condition and attest that you have received direction from your healthcare provider to receive a third dose.
- Third dose immunizations have now been provided at all eligible Long-Term Care Homes and higher risk

Retirement Homes in Huron Perth.

- 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.

## 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.

## 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 [hpph.ca/vaccine](http://hpph.ca/vaccine). Click the button that says “Submit your **COVID-19 Out-of-Province Dose Documentation**”.

## Additional doses for travel

- Third doses for the reasons of travel are not being provided at HPPH clinics.
- 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 17<sup>th</sup> 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

## Also remember

- Regardless of vaccination status, everyone 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 [hpph.ca/vaccine](http://hpph.ca/vaccine) for more information, or contact your HPMVAC sector representative. The HPMVAC membership list is available at [hpph.ca/vaccine](http://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.

## APPENDIX A – Individuals eligible for shortened second-dose interval

- Individuals who are turning 12 in 2021 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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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:

- Individuals receiving active treatment (e.g., chemotherapy, targeted therapies, immunotherapy) for solid tumour or hematologic malignancies.
- Recipients of solid-organ transplant and taking immunosuppressive therapy
- Recipients of chimeric antigen receptor (CAR)-T-cell therapy or hematopoietic stem cell transplant (within 2 years of transplantation or taking immunosuppression therapy).
- Individuals with moderate to severe primary immunodeficiency (e.g., DiGeorge syndrome, Wiskott-Aldrich syndrome).
- Individuals with stage 3 or advanced untreated HIV infection and those with acquired immunodeficiency syndrome.
- Individuals receiving active treatment with the following categories of immunosuppressive therapies: anti-B cell therapies<sup>2</sup> (monoclonal antibodies targeting CD19, CD20 and CD22), high-dose systemic corticosteroids (refer to the CIG for suggested definition of high dose steroids), alkylating agents, antimetabolites, or tumor-necrosis factor (TNF) inhibitors and other biologic agents that are significantly immunosuppressive.

Third dose eligibility also includes:

- Residents of high-risk congregate settings including long-term care homes, higher-risk licensed retirement homes and First Nations elder care lodges.
  - This group is eligible to receive a third dose at a minimum of 5 months after their second dose.
  - HPPH is working with partners to provide third doses to this group.

Those who are eligible may receive a 3<sup>rd</sup> dose at a minimum of eight weeks after their second dose.