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Huron Perth COVID-19 Vaccination

HPMVAC Update: Oct. 21, 2021

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What's new in this update

- NACI now recommends that: COVID-19 vaccines may be given at the same time as, or any time before or after, other vaccines, including live, non-live, adjuvanted, and non-adjuvanted vaccines.
- Update on the provincial enhanced vaccine certificate with official QR code for Ontario residents.
- The CDC has announced that they now recognize a mixed dose series as full vaccination against COVID-19.
- Residents of licensed Retirement Homes are eligible for a third dose if they received their second dose at least five months ago. Public Health Units are able to work with partner ministries to determine eligible senior congregate settings as well.

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 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.

Receiving another vaccine (such as flu shot) and COVID-19 vaccine

- The National Advisory Committee on Immunization (NACI) now recommends that: COVID-19 vaccines may be given at the same time as, or any time before or after, other vaccines, including live, non-live, adjuvanted, and non-adjuvanted vaccines.
 - This means that COVID-19 vaccines may be given at the same time as, or any time before or after, other vaccines such as the flu shot or a childhood immunization (e.g. Meningococcal, Hepatitis B, etc.)
 - Flu shots are now available for seniors and others most at risk for complications from the flu. Starting in November, the flu shot will be available for all Ontarians. HPMVAC encourages residents to receive their flu shot as soon as possible once it is available.
 - Flu shots are available through doctor and nurse practitioner offices and participating pharmacies.
 - For the HPPH influenza program, planning with partners is ongoing. There is a possibility that those coming to clinics for COVID vaccines could access flu vaccine at the same time later this fall. We will provide more details as we confirm them. We continue to encourage residents to receive a flu shot through the first available location, whether pharmacy, doctor or nurse practitioner, or public health.

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**
- On Oct. 15, the province introduced the enhanced vaccine certificate with official QR code for Ontario residents. Operators can now download the free app, Verify Ontario, by making it quicker and easier to confirm if a person is fully vaccinated against COVID-19, while protecting their privacy.
 - The existing vaccine receipts will continue to serve as valid proof of vaccination as well.
 - Learn more at the province’s Proof of COVID-19 Vaccination page (covid-19.ontario.ca/proof-covid-19-vaccination)
 - See below for information on how to get a provincial vaccination certificate.

HPPH Letter of Instruction for facilities used for organized sport

- 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.
- 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 a provincial vaccination certificate

- At any time you can download and print your vaccine certificate through the provincial portal at 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.

Vaccination opportunities in Huron-Perth

HPPH

- HPPH continues its October schedule of clinics, including bookable clinics, walk-ins, evening hours, and pop-up locations. Plans for November clinics will be released publicly soon.
- For walk-in vaccinations and appointment opportunities visit 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 be booked for some clinics as well. This can be done online at hpph.ca/vaccinebooking, or by calling 1-833-753-2098.
 - Follow us on Facebook, Twitter or Instagram for the latest updates.
 - facebook.com/HuronPerthPublicHealth
 - twitter.com/HPPublicHealth
 - instagram.com/huronperthpublichealth
- If possible, please bring a completed Client Information Sheet (consent form) found at 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 18, we are reporting 203,664 vaccine doses administered in Huron Perth by HPPH and partners.
- For Huron Perth residents aged 12 and over, 84.4% have received one dose and 80.3% are fully vaccinated.
- From the Oct 12th web posting to the Oct 18th web posting, there was an increase in 455 (32%) 1st dose vaccinations and an increase in 983 (68%) 2nd dose vaccinations. There was a total increase in 1438 vaccinations.
- 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 generally 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

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 3rd 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.
- Residents of licensed retirement homes are eligible to receive their third dose if they received their second dose at least five months ago.
 - HPPH is on track to complete these third doses by end of October.
- Public Health Units are able to work with partner ministries to determine eligible senior congregate settings as well.
- 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.

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.
- This will enable you to be considered fully vaccinated (if getting your second dose in Ontario). For fully vaccinated people, having your information inputted into COVaxON allows you to access your provincial vaccine certificate.
- Easily register vaccinations received outside of Ontario or Canada at 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.
- The CDC has announced that they now recognize a mixed dose series as full vaccination against COVID-19.

- 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

- NACI now recommends that: COVID-19 vaccines may be given at the same time as, or any time before or after, other vaccines, including live, non-live, adjuvanted, and non-adjuvanted vaccines.
- 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 for more information, or contact your HPMVAC sector representative. The HPMVAC membership list is available at 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 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:

- Individuals receiving active treatment¹ (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 therapies² (monoclonal antibodies targeting CD19, CD20 and CD22), high-dose systemic corticosteroids³, alkylating agents, antimetabolites, or tumor-necrosis factor (TNF) inhibitors and other biologic agents that are significantly immunosuppressive.

Those who are eligible may receive a 3rd dose at a minimum of eight weeks after their second dose. Refer to COVID-19 Vaccine Third Dose Recommendations (health.gov.on.ca/en/pro/programs/publichealth/coronavirus/docs/vaccine/COVID-19_vaccine_third_dose_recommendations.pdf) for more information.

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 and partners have provided third doses to this group.
- Residents of licensed retirement homes are eligible to receive their third dose if they received their second dose at least five months ago.
- HPPH is on track to complete these third doses by end of October.
- Public Health Units are able to work with partner ministries to determine eligible senior congregate settings as well.

¹ Active treatment includes patients who have completed treatment within 3 months

² Active treatment for patients receiving B-cell depleting therapy includes patients who have completed treatment within 12 months

³ Refer to the Immunization of immunocompromised persons: Canadian Immunization Guide - Canada.ca for additional information.