

COVID-19 Vaccine: Update #10

COVID-19 Vaccination Registration Open to Those 75 to 79 Years Old

Reminder of Dose 2 Appointment Delay

Attention: Physicians, Emergency Departments, Hospital CEOs, Hospital Laboratories, Infection Control Practitioners, Occupational Health Practitioners, Walk-In Clinics/Urgent Care Clinics, Nurse Practitioners, EMS, Designated Officers, Midwives, Family Health Teams, Pharmacies, Central LHIN, NSM LHIN, Beausoleil First Nation, Moose Deer Point First Nation, Rama First Nation, Wahta First Nation, Long-term Care Homes, Retirement Homes, Hospices, Coroners, Funeral Directors, Dentists, Group Homes, Homes for Special Care, Optometrists, Corrections

Date: March 19, 2021

COVID-19 Vaccination Registration Now Open to those 75 to 79 years old

We are pleased to share that effective today, those who are 75 to 79 years of age (born in 1942 - 1946) who live (primary or secondary residence), work or routinely receive health care in Simcoe Muskoka are eligible to start registering on the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit (SMDHU) website to receive the COVID-19 vaccine. The provincial booking system continues to be limited to direct booking for 80+ years of age until all regions of the province are ready to proceed, so those 75 to 79 will need to register on the SMDHU website at this time.

Once registered on the SMDHU website, people will be placed in the queue to receive the vaccine. This could take days or weeks to complete based on vaccine supply and volume. When an appointment is available, the person will be sent an email invitation with a booking code to book their appointment on the provincial booking system. Note that this does not happen immediately. People will be required to provide an email address for this service.

A reminder that all those eligible in the provincial Phase 1 priority groups below, continue to be eligible and can register to receive an appointment for their vaccine on the SMDHU website at anytime:

- Staff, essential caregivers, and any residents in:
 - Long-term care homes
 - Retirement homes
 - First Nations elder care homes
 - Other seniors congregate settings
- Alternative level of care patients in hospitals who have a confirmed admission to a long-term care home, retirement home or other congregate care home for seniors
- Adults 80 years of age and older (born anytime in 1941 or prior)
- All Indigenous adults (living on-reserve or urban) and their adult household members



- Note: Adult is defined as age 16+ based on birth date, not birth year, due to authorization of the vaccine for age 16 and up
- Adult recipients of chronic home care
- **Frontline** health care workers identified as Highest Priority, Very High Priority, or High Priority in the [Ministry of Health's guidance on Health Care Worker Prioritization](#)ⁱ

Reminder: Changes to Second Dose Intervals

As outlined in the March 11, 2021 HealthFAX, to increase the number of individuals benefiting from a first dose of vaccine in the context of a limited COVID-19 vaccine supply, the province is following recommendations from NACI to extend the time interval between the first and second dose of COVID-19 vaccines up to 16 weeks. This 16 week interval for the second dose applies to the three two-dose vaccines currently available in Canada: Pfizer-BioNTech, Moderna and AstraZeneca/COVISHIELD.

Only the following will continue to receive their second dose of vaccine at the initial 21 to 27 day interval:

- Residents of Long-term Care Homes, Retirement Homes, and Elder Care Lodges
- Those living in First Nation communities

All others will receive their second dose of COVID-19 vaccine 16 weeks following their first dose. Anyone who had an appointment scheduled for their second dose before 16 weeks has been emailed to notify them of this delay, or if no email is on file then we have called them to ensure they received this information. People are encouraged to refer to the SMDHU website in early May for an update on how to book an appointment to receive their second dose of vaccine at that time.

For more information about the rollout of COVID-19 vaccine in our area, please refer to the [SMDHU COVID-19 Vaccine and Immunization Webpages](#)ⁱⁱ.

Additional Information

For more information on the province's three-phased vaccine distribution implementation plan, please visit [COVID-19 vaccines for Ontario](#)ⁱⁱⁱ.

There are a number of COVID-19 resources and documents available through our Health Professional Portal at www.smdhu.org/hportal as well as through [Public Health Ontario](#)^{iv} and the [Government of Ontario](#)^v.

ⁱhttps://www.health.gov.on.ca/en/pro/programs/publichealth/coronavirus/docs/Guidance_for_Prioritizing_HCW_covid19_vaccination_2020-01-08.pdf

ⁱⁱ <https://www.simcoemuskokahealth.org/Topics/COVID-19/Vaccine-and-Immunization>

ⁱⁱⁱ <https://covid-19.ontario.ca/covid-19-vaccines-ontario>

^{iv} <https://www.publichealthontario.ca/>

^v http://www.health.gov.on.ca/en/pro/programs/publichealth/coronavirus/2019_guidance.aspx.