

## COVID-19 Vaccine: Update #20 Vaccine Eligibility Update

**Attention:** Physicians, Emergency Departments, Hospital CEOs, Hospital Laboratories, Infection Control Practitioners, Occupational Health Practitioners, Walk-In Clinics/Urgent Care Clinics, Nurse and 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, Municipalities, Licensed Child Care Providers

**Date:** May 3, 2021

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### Hot Spot Age Eligibility Changed to 18 years +

As of Monday, May 3, 2021, at 8:00 a.m., individuals who are 18 years of age (in 2021) and older who live in an identified Hot Spot Community will be eligible to book a COVID-19 vaccine appointment at a mass immunization clinic through the provincial booking system.

In Simcoe Muskoka, this means that all of **those living in the Town of Bradford West Gwillimbury** can now book an appointment to be vaccinated by:

- For those living within the L3Z postal code, calling the Provincial Vaccine Booking Line at 1-833-943-3900 or online at [Ontario.ca/bookvaccine](https://ontario.ca/bookvaccine)
- For those living outside the L3Z postal code but within the Town of Bradford West Gwillimbury, they can book an appointment on the town's website <https://www.townofbwg.com/vaccine> for one of our designated hot spot clinics

### Additional Eligibility Changes Being Added Later This Week

Beginning Thursday, May 6, 2021, at 8:00 a.m. the following groups will be eligible to book a COVID-19 vaccine appointment through the provincial booking system by calling the Provincial Vaccine Booking Line at 1-833-943-3900 or online at [Ontario.ca/bookvaccine](https://ontario.ca/bookvaccine):

- Individuals turning 50 and over in 2021;
- Individuals with High-Risk Health Conditions (see list of conditions below);
- Essential Workers Who Cannot Work from Home who Fall Under First Group (see list below);
- First Nations, Inuit and Métis individuals, in addition to separate channels for booking at local Indigenous-specific clinics

High-Risk Health Conditions include:

- Obesity (BMI greater than 40)
- Other treatments causing immunosuppression (e.g., chemotherapy, immunity weakening medications)
- Intellectual or developmental disabilities (e.g., Down Syndrome)

Those with High-Risk Health Conditions are not required to have medical documentation of their condition but will be asked to self-attest to having a High-Risk Health Condition at the time of booking and upon arrival at clinic.

First group of essential workers who cannot work from home include frontline workers in the following sectors:

- Elementary/secondary school workers (including educators, custodial, school bus drivers, administrative staff)
- Workers responding to critical events (including police, fire, special constables, children's aid society workers, emergency management, critical infrastructure restoration workers)
- Enforcement, inspection, and compliance roles (including by-law enforcement, building inspectors, food inspectors, animal welfare inspectors, border inspection officers, labour inspectors/WSIB field workers)
- Foster care agency workers (including customary care providers)
- Food manufacturing and distribution workers
- Agriculture and farm workers
- Funeral, crematorium and cemetery workers

In addition, priority populations who have been only able to book via the provincial call centre will now also be able to book online, including individuals with the Highest-Risk Health Conditions, child care workers in licensed child care settings and education workers who provide direct support to students with special education needs.

The following people *cannot* book directly on the provincial appointment system and must continue to pre-register on the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit (SMDHU) [website](#):

- Essential caregivers of residents in long term care homes and retirement homes
- Health care workers
- Those receiving chronic home care
- Faith leaders at high exposure risk
- Those living in a congregate living setting

Anyone from the above list who is, or becomes, eligible based on age or another provincial criteria can book directly on the provincial site.

### **Stand-By List**

We have launched a stand-by list for any remaining doses at the end of each clinic day. People must meet one of the current eligibility criteria in order to qualify and their eligibility will be reviewed if being called in to receive a dose.

People can sign up on the SMDHU website to be on the stand-by list for clinics each day starting at 7:00 a.m. based on their availability, as they need to confirm that they can arrive at the clinic site within 30 to 45 minutes of receiving a call. The stand-by list is not carried forward from one day to the next. At the end of each day, the list is cleared and a new list is started. People are still encouraged to book an appointment

outside of the stand-by list, and should they be called in off the stand-by list clinic staff will assist them in cancelling their appointment.

### **Additional Information**

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

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

There are a number of COVID-19 resources and documents available through our Health Professional Portal at [www.smdhu.org/hpportal](http://www.smdhu.org/hpportal) as well as through [Public Health Ontario](#) and the [Government of Ontario](#).