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## **COVID-19 Vaccine: Update #21 Dialysis and Urban Indigenous 2<sup>nd</sup> Dose Interval Changed, Eligibility Update, AEFI Reporting and School Immunization Program Catch Up**

**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 10, 2021

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### **Dialysis Patients Now Eligible for Dose 2 at Product Monograph Interval**

Ontario's Vaccine Clinical Advisory Group continues to review relevant evidence regarding the vaccine dosing interval and has provided the additional evidence-informed recommendation that individuals undergoing hemodialysis or peritoneal dialysis in the authorized age groups should receive the COVID-19 vaccine at the dose interval indicated in the product monographs. This change is effective immediately and where possible, patients can be vaccinated within their dialysis unit. Patients who are unable to receive vaccine within the dialysis unit will require a letter from the dialysis unit/nephrologist to confirm that they are eligible to get a second dose appointment at the earlier interval identifying the reason for the exception. These people can register to receive their 2<sup>nd</sup> dose at a community clinic on the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit [website](#).

### **Urban Indigenous People Eligible for Dose 2 at Product Monograph Interval**

We have received confirmation that the urban Indigenous population (First Nations, Metis and Inuit) are now eligible to receive their 2<sup>nd</sup> dose at the product monograph interval of 21-28 days following the 1<sup>st</sup> dose. We are currently working on adding additional clinic capacity in the coming weeks to accommodate this change and will be contacting those who identified as Indigenous at the time of their 1<sup>st</sup> dose, who are now due, with information about how to book their appointment. For Indigenous people who did not self-identify as such at the time of their 1<sup>st</sup> dose and were vaccinated based on other eligibility criteria, they can access their 2<sup>nd</sup> dose at the earlier interval by calling the health unit 705-721-7520 ext. 5997 to book an



appointment and bringing documentation to their appointment to verify their eligibility as an Indigenous person.

### **First Group of Health Care Workers Soon Eligible to Book Dose 2 at Earlier Interval**

The first group of health care workers are being added to the list of those eligible to receive their 2<sup>nd</sup> dose of the COVID-19 vaccine earlier than the extended four-month interval. They are being termed '[High-Risk Health Care Workers](#)', and are in keeping with those frontline workers who were eligible for dose 1 as Highest-Priority HCWs and prior. Eligibility for booking will begin by the end of this week and booking details will be provided in the coming days.

### **Additional Eligibility Changes This Week**

The following groups will be eligible to book their 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):

As of Tuesday May 11<sup>th</sup>, at 8:00am

- Individuals with At-Risk Health Conditions (see list of conditions below)
- Essential workers who cannot work from home who fall under second group (see list below)

As of Thursday May 13<sup>th</sup>, at 8:00am

- Individuals turning 40 and over in 2021 will also be eligible to book their appointment through the provincial booking system

### **At-Risk Health Conditions include:**

- Immune deficiencies/autoimmune disorders
- Stroke/cerebrovascular disease
- Dementia
- Diabetes
- Liver disease
- All other cancers
- Respiratory diseases such as asthma, bronchitis, pneumonia, pleurisy
- Spleen problems (e.g., asplenia)
- Heart disease
- Hypertension with end organ damage
- Diagnosis of mental disorder
- Substance use disorders
- Sickle Cell Disease
- Thalassemia
- Immunocompromising health conditions
- Other disabilities requiring direct support care in the community

### **Second group of essential workers who cannot work from home include these frontline workers:**

- Essential and critical retail workers (including grocery, foodbank and non-clinical pharmacy workers, Service Ontario workers, Service Canada and Passport Canada workers, wholesalers and general goods, restaurant workers, LCBO)
- Workers in manufacturing industries directly involved in supporting the COVID-19 response, construction including infrastructure, and other essential businesses
- and services where facilities are at heightened risk for COVID-19 outbreaks and spread
- Social workers and other social services staff providing in-person client services (including youth justice workers, OW and ODSP case workers)
- Courts and justice system workers (including probation and parole workers)

- Transportation, warehousing and distribution workers (including public transit workers, taxi drivers, truck drivers supporting essential services, marine and rail cargo and maintenance, highway maintenance)
- Electricity (including workers employed in system operations, generation, transmission, distribution and storage)
- Communications infrastructure workers (including cellular, satellite, landline, internet, public safety radio)
- Water and wastewater management workers
- Financial services workers (bank branch staff)
- Veterinarians and veterinary teams
- Waste management workers
- Oil and petroleum workers (including those working in petroleum refineries; those involved in the storage, transmission and distribution of crude oil and petroleum products and those needed for the retail sale of fuel)
- Natural gas and propane gas workers (including those working in the compression, storage, transmission and distribution of natural gas and propane)
- Mine workers (including those needed to ensure the continued operation of active mines)
- Uranium processing workers (those working in the refining and conversion of uranium, and fabrication of fuel for nuclear power plants)

All priority populations who were eligible in Phase 1 or earlier in Phase 2 also continue to be eligible and can book directly on the provincial booking system.

### **AEFI Reporting**

Health care providers administering vaccines are required to inform each client of the importance of immediately reporting adverse events following immunization (AEFI) to a physician or nurse in accordance with s. 38 of the Health Protection and Promotion Act (HPPA). Any regulated health care professional who administers immunizations (e.g., physicians, nurses and pharmacists) is also required under the HPPA to report AEFIs to their local public health unit.

While patients can self-report to public health, if a health care provider becomes aware of an AEFI in a patient following an immunization, it is their responsibility to report this to public health.

### **Stand-By List Moving to Opening at 8am Each Morning**

Please note that the stand-by list for same day appointments will be opening each morning at 8am, instead of 7am effective Tuesday May 11<sup>th</sup>.

### **School Immunization Program Update**

We are releasing school immunization program vaccines (Hepatitis B, Men-C-ACYW and HPV) to healthcare providers (HCP) for students currently in Grade 8 (those born in 2007) or older who want to complete their series. There will be catch up opportunities offered by the health unit for these students, once the demands of the COVID-19 vaccine program decrease. It is not an expectation that HCPs provide school program vaccines in their practice; however, it is an option for them. **We are not releasing vaccine for any student currently in Grade 7 (those born in 2008), as they will be caught up during the 2021/2022 school year.** Students currently eligible for school immunization program catch-up include:

## Hepatitis B

- Students currently in Grade 8 (born 2007) and Grade 9 (born 2006; eligible until August 31, 2021)

## Human Papillomavirus (Gardasil®9)

- Males currently in Grades 8 – 11 (born 2004 - 2007)
- Females currently in Grades 8 – 12 (born 2003 - 2007)
- Females born in 2002 (graduated in 2019/2020 school year; eligible until August 31, 2021)

## Men-C-ACYW (Menactra®)

- Grades 8 – 12 (born 2003-2007); remain eligible until receive vaccine
- Anyone born in or after 1997 who has not received the vaccine

We have updated the [vaccine order forms](#) for this on our website.

## For immunization program information, support materials and forms refer to our website

[www.smdhu.org/pcportal](http://www.smdhu.org/pcportal) or call the Immunization program, Monday thru Friday 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., at 705-721-7520 or toll free 1-877-721-7520 ext. 8806.

## Additional COVID-19 Vaccine 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](#).