

COVID-19 Vaccine: Update #6

Updated Vaccination Sequencing for Phase One Priority Populations

Attention: Physicians, Emergency Departments, 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

Date: February 16, 2021

Barrie COVID-19 Immunization Clinic and Mobile Clinic Update

As of February 15th, we have successfully administered 27,402 doses of the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine to priority groups in Simcoe Muskoka including:

- 5,458 residents of long-term care homes (LTCH) and retirement homes (Rhome) through our mobile clinics, with 3,598 having completed their second dose.
- 5,198 staff and essential caregivers of LTCH and Rhomes, with 3,302 having completed their second dose.
- 5,232 hospital workers (HCW), with 5,030 having completed their second dose.
- 201 ALC patients, with 119 having completed their second dose.

Locally, we have completed dose 2 visits to all LTCHs in Simcoe Muskoka on Friday February 12th. Our mobile teams are now completing dose 2 visits to the Rhomes who have been vaccinated to date which will be completed this week.

With vaccine supply increasing through the remainder of February and into March, we have received the following provincial direction for the vaccination program over the coming weeks:

Immediate priority for first-dose vaccination:

- Staff and essential caregivers in LTCH, Rhomes and local First Nations elder care homes, and any residents of these settings that have not yet received a first dose of vaccine.
- Alternative level of care patients in hospitals who have a confirmed admission to a LTCH, Rhome or other congregate care home for seniors.
- Highest Priority health care workers, followed by Very High Priority health care works, in accordance with the [Ministry of Health's Guidance on Health Care Worker Prioritization](#).¹
- Indigenous adults in northern remote and higher risk communities (including on-reserve and urban communities).

Appointments for first doses will be added to the booking system for the COVID-19 Vaccine Clinic at 29 Sperling Drive, Barrie for the remaining staff and essential caregivers in LTCH and Rhomes. We will also



be offering first dose appointments at the 29 Sperling Clinic for healthcare workers remaining in the Highest Priority health care worker grouping. We will begin this process by reaching out to employers to identify staff for vaccination, and then an invitation will be sent with an online link to book their appointment.

Mobile clinic teams will be providing first doses to residents in the remaining Rhomes and the four First Nations communities in Simcoe Muskoka the week of February 21st.

Our community clinics throughout Simcoe and Muskoka will be ready to open March 1st, and will begin by focusing on those remaining in the groups above, as well as those in the following groups (with any further sequencing between these groups to be determined in keeping with vaccine supply):

Next priority for first-dose vaccination:

- Adults 80 years of age and older
- Staff, residents and caregivers in other congregate care settings for seniors (i.e. assisted living)
- Health care workers in the High Priority level, and in accordance with the [Ministry of Health's Guidance on Health Care Worker Prioritization](#)
- All Indigenous adults
- Adult recipients of chronic home care

It is expected that working through these two lists of groups outlined above will take us into April to complete, contingent on vaccine supply.

Our community clinics will all be by appointment only. There will be a provincial pre-registration and appointment scheduling system available in the coming weeks which will be used to book clinic appointments. In the interim, the health unit will be working with our primary care partners and community partners that are connected to the various groups above to establish a process for making clinic appointments available to people in these groups.

Second Dose Intervals

To increase the availability of first doses during this supply-limited time, all **second dose appointments** for Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine will be administered **35 days** after the administration of the first dose, and no later than 42 days for all vaccine recipients **except for the following who should receive their second dose 21 to 27 days after their first dose:**

- Residents of LTCHs, Rhomes and local First Nations elder care homes
- Residents of other types of congregate care homes for seniors
- Those 80 years of age and older

Update on Those with Severe Allergies

The [Ministry of Health COVID-19 Vaccination Recommendations for Special Populationsⁱⁱ](#) was updated on February 12, 2021. Based on this updated guidance:

- Those who have had severe allergic reaction or anaphylaxis to a previous dose of COVID-19 mRNA vaccine or to any of its components should not receive the mRNA COVID-19 vaccine in a general vaccine clinic. An urgent referral to an allergist/immunologist is recommended for these individuals to assess if and how their series will be completed. See the attached information below on the Ontario eConsult Service that is now available for allergy consults related to COVID-19 vaccine. The health unit will make arrangements to provide COVID-19 vaccine to the allergist/immunologist for administration to these clients if it is determined vaccination should proceed.

The components include polyethylene glycol and, due to potential cross-reactivity, polysorbate.

- For those who have had an allergic reaction within 4 hours and/or anaphylaxis that occurred with a vaccine or injectable medication that does not contain a component or cross-reacting component of mRNA COVID-19 vaccines, the vaccine can be given with an extended post-vaccination observation time of 30 minutes.
- Those with a history of significant allergic reaction and/or anaphylaxis to any food, drug, venom, latex or other allergens not related to the mRNA COVID-19 vaccine can receive the vaccine with an extended post-vaccination observation time of 30 minutes.

For additional information on allergy consult the [Canadian Society of Allergy and Clinical Immunology Statement on COVID-19 vaccination](#).ⁱⁱⁱ

Additional Information

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

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

Allergy advice for COVID-19 Vaccine is now available on the Ontario eConsult Service

In response to the COVID-19 vaccination roll out, the Ontario eConsult Centre of Excellence in partnership with Public Health, OMA, OntarioMD, Ontario Health and the MOH have created a **COVID-19 – Allergy/Immunology BASE™ Managed Specialty Group**. This group enables physicians and nurse practitioners to ask **COVID-19 vaccine allergy related clinical questions** to Allergy and Clinical Immunology specialists electronically and receive a response within days. The general COVID-19 infectious disease group continues to be available.

The COVID-19 specialties are the only groups that allow for population-based, non-patient specific clinical questions.

The COVID-19 – Allergy/Immunology BASE™ Managed Specialty Group is now available province-wide:

- Accessed through the BASE™ managed specialty option and listed under COVID-19 and Allergy & Clinical Immunology.
- A group of Allergy & Clinical Immunology specialists who can answer both patient specific and general questions about COVID-19 vaccine allergies
- For non-patient specific questions please enter the patient information as follows:
 - First Name: COVID19
 - Last Name: COVID19
 - Date of Birth: 1900-01-01
 - Select OHIP number not available
- Please note: this group is meant for allergy specific questions only, and not meant for general information regarding COVID-19 vaccine distribution. For more information on the COVID-19 vaccine in Ontario, visit <https://covid-19.ontario.ca/getting-covid-19vaccine-ontario>.

If you would like to sign up for eConsult, visit www.otnhub.ca or complete our [Intake Form](#)^{vii} and someone can assist you.

If you need a refresher on how to submit an eConsult, you can watch our training video here: <https://youtu.be/-zqlxVrLiYQ>

Please note, specialists also have the ability to submit eConsults both to this group and to all other specialty groups and specialists.

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

ⁱⁱ http://www.health.gov.on.ca/en/pro/programs/publichealth/coronavirus/docs/vaccine/COVID-19_vaccination_recommendations_special_populations.pdf

ⁱⁱⁱ <https://csaci.ca/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/COVID-19-VaccineTesting-AdministrationGuidance-JAN5.pdf>

^{iv} <https://covid-19.ontario.ca/covid-19-vaccines-ontario>

^v <https://www.publichealthontario.ca/>

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

^{vii}

https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?Host=Teams&lang=%7blocale%7d&groupid=%7bgroupid%7d&tid=%7btid%7d&teamsTheme=%7btheme%7d&upn=%7bupn%7d&id=tkGbhQ8TE02mkx_-xOfLWvwxz8ZH26hKmlL2HnNWGG_ZURVhQWTIKWTAzNIIUzZUM1EyVU9WSVpTSSQIQCN0PWcu