

COVID-19 Vaccine: Update #23

Dose 2 Booking 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 14, 2021

Earlier this week, the province announced that urban Indigenous people and their household members together with the highest priority health care workers, are now eligible to book an appointment to receive their second dose of the COVID-19 vaccine. This second dose is coming much earlier than the extended four-month interval. These appointments cannot be booked using the provincial booking system. Therefore, the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit (SMDHU) has set-up separate booking links for these appointments and we are currently distributing that information to those who are eligible as follows:

Urban Indigenous Adults and their Household Members

Emails with booking information have gone out to those who identified as Indigenous at their first appointment and who provided an email address. Those who are Indigenous and have not received an email are asked to please call 705-721-7520 ext. 5997 to have someone assist with booking their appointment.

Highest Priority Health Care Workers & Long-Term Care and Retirement Home Staff and Essential Caregivers

An email with booking information will be sent today to all employers and organizations with staff who are eligible, requesting them to forward the email to applicable staff in their agency. Only those who are frontline workers who were eligible for their first dose as a Highest-Priority HCWs are currently eligible for the second dose at the earlier interval. Please refer to the [following list](#) to confirm who is eligible. The majority of these people received their first and second dose in January before the interval was changed. People who book that are not on this list will be turned away at clinics.

Transplant Recipients, Active Cancer Treatment & Dialysis Patients

Only transplant recipients, those receiving active cancer treatment and dialysis patients are the medical conditions currently eligible for their second dose at the earlier interval. The SMDHU has the contact



information for those individuals who have been vaccinated at our community clinics and we will contact them to book their appointment. We ask that those individuals who were **not** vaccinated at one of our community clinics and would like to book their second dose, please visit our website and complete the [form; SMDHU](#) will follow-up with them to book their second appointment.

Proof of Eligibility for the Early Interval 2nd Dose will be Required

Everyone will be required to show proof of eligibility for the earlier interval second dose:

- Dialysis/Active Cancer Treatment/Transplant → a letter provided by their applicable provincial program, specialist or health care provider
- Indigenous Adult → identification confirming Indigenous ancestry that was provided for their first dose. Indigenous household members are to attend with the indigenous adult they live with who has their ID confirming Indigenous ancestry. More information can be found [here](#).
- Highest risk health care workers → work identification, or a copy of the email sent to them from their employer noting their eligibility for them to book their appointment.

Update on 2nd Dose Appointments for Everyone Else who Received Dose 1 before March 17

Unfortunately, the provincial booking system is still not able to accommodate only dose 2 bookings. We know that those who were immunized before March 17th, who were booked in our other booking system, and do not currently have a dose 2 appointment are anxious to get their appointment booked before they are eligible at 16 weeks. Therefore, we are setting up a separate booking system for this that will be launched early next week on our website. We will also email everyone directly for whom we have an email address recorded in COVAX.

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

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 as well as through [Public Health Ontario](#) and the [Government of Ontario](#).