

COVID-19 Vaccine: Update #30

Everyone 12+ Now Eligible for Two Doses of COVID-19 Vaccine, Myocarditis/Pericarditis 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: July 5, 2021

Everyone 12+ is Now Eligible for Two Doses of COVID-19 Vaccine

As of today, everyone in Ontario 12 years of age and older is now eligible to receive two doses of COVID-19 vaccine at the following provincially approved intervals:

- Those who received mRNA COVID-19 vaccine (Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna) → 28 days
- Those who received AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine → 8 weeks

We strongly encourage those who have not yet been vaccinated or who are now eligible to receive their second dose to do so as soon as possible to protect themselves and our community from a potential fourth wave of COVID-19 caused by the Delta variant. People with second dose appointments in August and beyond are encouraged to move their appointments up into July [online](#) or by calling the provincial booking line at 1-833-943-3900.

As vaccine is becoming more readily available, options to receive first and second doses include:

- Mass immunization clinics – people can book via the [provincial vaccine appointment booking system](#) at one of the 13 clinics across Simcoe and Muskoka. Clinics will be offering more opportunities for people to walk in and receive their vaccine without an appointment in the coming weeks. We encourage people to follow us on social media for updates.
- Pharmacies – over 130 pharmacies across Simcoe and Muskoka are now offering mRNA vaccine. Those who originally administered AstraZeneca are also offering it or mRNA vaccine for those who received AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine for their first dose.



- Primary care providers – we have a number of providers offering mRNA vaccine.

If you are a primary care provider who is not currently offering COVID-19 vaccine, we encourage you to do so to ensure the vaccine is readily available to all. Please email Vaccineorders@smdhu.org indicating your interest and our staff will follow up with you.

NACI Update on Myocarditis and Pericarditis

As previously reported, a small number of cases of myocarditis (inflammation of the heart muscle) and/or pericarditis (inflammation of the lining around the heart) following immunization with mRNA COVID-19 vaccines have been reported in Canada and internationally. It is important to note that there are many potential causes of myocarditis and pericarditis, including viral infections. This can also occur as a complication in people who are infected with SARS-CoV-2, the COVID-19 virus.

Internationally, cases have been reported more frequently in adolescents and younger adults under 30 years of age, more often in males than in females, and more frequently after a second dose. The majority of cases have been mild and individuals have recovered quickly.

NACI continues to strongly recommend that a complete series with a mRNA vaccine should be offered to all eligible individuals, including those 12 years of age and older. mRNA COVID-19 vaccines provide very good protection against SARS-CoV-2 infection and symptomatic COVID-19 disease, including severe illness, hospitalization and death.

People who are offered a mRNA COVID-19 vaccine should be informed of the very rare risk of myocarditis and/or pericarditis following immunization and should be advised to seek immediate medical attention if they develop symptoms, which may include chest pain, shortness of breath, or the feeling of a fast, pounding or fluttering heartbeat. Cases typically occur within a week after the receipt of a mRNA vaccine dose, more commonly after a second dose. Any potential cases should be investigated with medical assessment regardless of timing from vaccination to onset.

As a precaution, NACI recommends that individuals who experienced myocarditis and/or pericarditis after a first dose of a mRNA COVID-19 vaccine should wait to receive a second dose until more information is available.

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](#).