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COVID-19 Vaccine: Update #24 Eligibility Open to 18+ and 2nd Dose 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 18, 2021

Those 18 years and older now eligible to book appointment to receive their vaccine

As of Tuesday May 18, at 8:00am:

- Individuals turning 18 and over in 2021 will be eligible to book their appointment through the Provincial Vaccine Booking Line at 1-833-943-3900 or online at Ontario.ca/bookvaccine
- Individuals who are 17 years old and are turning 18 in 2021 will also be eligible to book their COVID-19 vaccination appointment only for the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine. The Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine is currently the only COVID-19 vaccine that has been authorized by Health Canada for use in youth aged 12 and over. The provincial booking system will note which clinics are not offering vaccines for those who are 17 years old.

Youth between the ages of 12 and 17 will be eligible to book an appointment through the provincial booking system beginning the week of May 31, 2021, to receive their first dose of the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine. We are currently working with our local school boards to plan for COVID-19 immunization clinics for youth 12 to 17 and their family members 18 and older who have not yet been vaccinated, during the provincially-designated weeks of June 13 and 20. More details on this plan will be provided in the coming weeks.

Update on 2nd dose appointments for those who received dose 1 before March 17

Those who received their 1st dose of vaccine, up to and including February 28th, who have not already received an email about being eligible for an earlier 2nd dose, will be eligible to book their 16 week appointment the weeks of May 23rd and May 30th.



Those who received their 1st dose of vaccine, from March 1st to March 17th will be eligible to book an appointment starting June 20th. Anyone who provided an email address when receiving their 1st dose will be receiving an email in the coming days with a booking link and instructions to book their appointment. The link will also be added to our website by the end of this week for those we did not have an email address for.

Those who originally booked in the provincial booking system for our community clinics, but need to either change their dose 2 appointment or have cancelled their dose 2 appointment and need to book a new one, will need to wait until the single dose booking functionality has been added to the provincial booking system targeted to be available for the end of May.

AEFI reporting – what to report and what not?

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).

An AEFI is an unwanted or unexpected health effect that happens after someone receives a vaccine, which may or may not be caused by the vaccine. These do not include known side effects following a vaccine, which usually resolve in 1-3 days, including:

- Pain/redness/swelling at injection site
- Headache
- Fatigue
- Muscle/joint pain
- Fever or chills
- Nausea/vomiting/diarrhea

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. Any regulated health care professional who administers immunizations (e.g., physicians, nurses and pharmacists) is required under the HPPA to report AEFIs to their local public health unit. The purpose of this reporting is for a Medical Officer of Health to provide recommendations for the patient regarding future vaccination, and for vaccine safety surveillance.

Individuals who have received a COVID-19 vaccine and are experiencing side effects (outside of the commonly known side effects list above) will be advised by public health to follow-up with their primary care provider for an assessment and management of their symptoms. Health unit nurses are unable to assess these individuals over the phone and cannot recommend over-the-counter medications.

For more information on AEFIs and what to report, please refer to the [Fact Sheet - Adverse Event Following Immunization Reporting For Health Care Providers In Ontario \(publichealthontario.ca\)](https://www.ontario.ca/page/fact-sheet-adverse-event-following-immunization-reporting-for-health-care-providers)

Adverse events of special interest (AESIs) for COVID-19 vaccines also need to be reported to the health unit using the [Adverse Event Following Immunization Report Form](#). Refer to [Adverse Events of Special Interest \(AESIs\) for COVID-19 Vaccines Surveillance](#) for more information on AESIs.

Additional information regarding vaccine safety can be found at Public Health Ontario's [website](#), along with a summary report on [AEFIs for COVID-19 in Ontario: December 13, 2020 to May 8, 2021](#).

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](#).