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COVID-19 Vaccine: Update #25

Eligibility Open to 12+ and Update on 2nd Dose Interval and Booking

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 31, 2021

Additional Community Clinic Appointments Now Available for All Ages (12 years and older)

As of May 29th, additional local appointments were loaded into the Provincial Vaccine Appointment Booking System. Individuals 12 years of age and over are able to book their appointment through the Provincial Vaccine Booking Line at 1-833-943-3900 or online at [Ontario.ca/bookvaccine](https://ontario.ca/bookvaccine). Youth must be 12 at the time they are receiving their vaccine. If they are turning 12 over the next couple of months they can book for a date on or after their 12th birthday by calling the provincial phone line.

Youth 12 to 17 years will receive their 2nd dose between August 9 – 22, 2021 so they are protected prior to the start of the 2021/2022 school year. When youth book their appointment, they will be given an appointment to receive their second dose in 16 weeks. After June 27th, youth will be able to rebook their second dose appointment to August 9 – 22 either online or by calling the provincial call centre. Original dose 2 appointments will automatically be cancelled in the provincial booking system.

Promoting Youth Vaccination

A new webpage called [Kids Health First](#), developed by the Children's COVID-19 Vaccine Advisory Table is now live with information for youth, parents and providers.

Accelerated Schedule for 2nd Dose

On Friday May 28, 2021 the Ministry announced the following accelerated booking eligibility [Schedule for Second Dose](#) of COVID-19 Vaccines:



If your first dose was Pfizer or Moderna

Accelerated second doses will be available according to the following schedule.

Starting week	Who is eligible
May 31	People aged 80 and over
June 14	People aged 70 and over
June 28	People who received their first dose between the week of March 8 and April 18
July 19	People who received their first dose between the week of April 19 and May 9
August 2	People who received their first dose between the week of May 10 and May 30
August 9 and 16	People aged 12 to 25
August 9	People who received their first dose from the week of May 31 onwards (respecting the recommended intervals)

Starting Monday May 31st, those eligible based on the schedule above will be able to move their 2nd dose appointment up by calling the Provincial Vaccine Booking Line at 1-833-943-3900 or online at [Ontario.ca/bookvaccine](https://ontario.ca/bookvaccine). Appointment availability will depend on current vaccine supply.

Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit (SMDHU) recently emailed those immunized before March 17th, as they were booked for their first dose using our original booking system and therefore didn't receive an appointment to receive their second dose. If someone received this email and booked through the link provided, they may choose to see if there is an appointment sooner based on their eligibility in the provincial booking system. However, we would ask that if they book another appointment, that they cancel the one they booked in our other system so the appointment can be provided to someone else.

Additional Group Eligible for Shortened 2nd Dose Interval

Individuals who are taking an anti-CD20 agent (e.g., rituximab, ocrelizumab, ofatumumab) are now eligible for an earlier second dose at the product monograph interval. The timing of the vaccine should be decided with the treating provider in order to optimize the immune response from the vaccine series and minimize delays in the management of the underlying condition. Those who are eligible can contact the SMDHU Vaccine Appointment Booking Support Line at ext. 5997 to book an appointment. They will be required to bring a letter from their treating provider to their vaccine appointment.

COVID-19 Vaccine and Other Vaccines Required for Post-Exposure Prophylaxis

While it is recommended that people wait 14 days after receiving another vaccine to receive their COVID-19 vaccine, and 28 days after receiving a COVID-19 vaccine to receive other vaccines, if a vaccine is required for post-exposure prophylaxis (i.e., tetanus or rabies) the vaccine should be given regardless of these intervals.

2nd Dose for Those Who Received AstraZeneca (Az) COVID-19 Vaccine

Those who received Az vaccine may choose to have a second dose at a 12 week interval or wait until more data is available on mixed vaccine series (e.g., having a first dose of Az and a second dose of one of the mRNA vaccines). It is very important that people receive two doses of COVID-19 vaccine to complete their vaccine series.

If patients choose to receive AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine as their second dose:

- An interval at or after 12 weeks provides good protection
- The reported risk of Vaccine-induced Immune Thrombotic Thrombocytopenia (VITT) after the second dose of Az vaccine is much lower than observed following the first dose
- Data from the United Kingdom (UK) suggests that the rate of VITT following the second dose is approximately one in 600,000 doses administered. This is based on 15 events of VITT following approximately 9 million second doses of Az vaccine administered in the UK.

If patients choose to wait until more is known about the safety and efficacy of mixing vaccine products in a series, and if proven to be a safe and effective option:

- A second dose given as an mRNA vaccine would be scheduled at an interval of 16 weeks from their first dose of Az vaccine unless the province advises they are eligible for an accelerated interval
- While the National Advisory Committee on Immunization (NACI) is not currently recommending that vaccines of different types (e.g., mRNA vaccine and viral vector vaccine) be used, a clinical trial is underway that is addressing this question with results to be reported in June 2021
- There is emerging data on mixed vaccines series with a recent Spanish study which provided a first dose of Az vaccine followed by a second dose of the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine where participants mounted a robust immune response following the second dose, and demonstrated mild to moderate side effects commonly observed after COVID-19 vaccines and with no hospital admissions

Accessing Your Patient's COVID-19 Vaccine Records

It is important for primary care providers to have access to their patient's COVID-19 immunization information in order to reach out to patients who are not yet vaccinated and to ensure completion of the series for each patient. This includes those vaccinated in community mass clinics as well as at pharmacies. The province is launching three ways for primary care providers to access this information:

- Connecting Ontario e-viewer - those with access can now look up their patients' COVID-19 vaccination status.
- Curated lists are being compiled for each family doctor and will be available to download monthly beginning in June for those with a One ID account. These will be retroactive lists of those vaccinated to date.
- Health Report Manager (HRM) – those with access to this system through Ontario MD will be pushed data on their patients but this will be for those vaccinated now onward (not retrospectively).

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