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COVID-19 Vaccine: Update #27

Youth Vaccination Clinics, Mixing Vaccines to Complete a Series, Documentation of Vaccinations Received Out of Province and Reports of Myocarditis/Pericarditis After COVID-19 Vaccine

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: June 10, 2021

Youth COVID-19 Immunization Clinics

Youth 12 to 17 years of age continue to be eligible for COVID-19 vaccine and 36% of those 12 to 17 years of age have received their first dose. We encourage families to continue to book appointments in our community clinics or through their local pharmacy which may be offering Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine to those 12 years and older.

In addition, Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit (SMDHU) in partnership with our school board partners will also be offering additional youth clinics as follows:

- June 15 – Gravenhurst High School - 325 Mary St S, Gravenhurst, ON P1P 1X7
- June 16 - Nantyr Shore High School - 1146 Anna Maria Ave, Innisfil, ON L9S 4X5
- June 17 – Wasaga Beach Rec Plex - 1724 Mosley Street, Wasaga Beach, ON L9Z 1A1
- June 23 – Nottawasaga Pines High School - 8505 County Road 10, Angus, ON, L0M 1B1
- June 25 – Collingwood Curling Club – 25 Hume Street, Collingwood, ON, L9Y 4W3
- June 26 - Gravenhurst High School 325 Mary St S, Gravenhurst, ON P1P 1X7



Youth can book an appointment at any one of these clinics through the [provincial booking system](#) or the Provincial Vaccine Booking Line: 1-833-943-3900. Youth do not have to be attending that particular school to book an appointment there. To book an appointment online, individuals must already be 12 years old as of the date of their booking. For those who are not yet 12 years old but will be by the clinic day, they can book an appointment by calling the Provincial Vaccine Booking Line. Youth booking into the Youth school-based clinics above will receive a 2nd dose appointment from August 9 – 22nd.

Youth 12 to 17 years of age will all be eligible to receive their second dose from August 9 – 22nd to ensure they are fully vaccinated before the start of the 2021/2022 school year. Youth booking into our mass immunization clinics will have received a second dose appointment at a 16 week interval. By the end of June, they will be able to move this appointment up in the provincial booking system to August 9 – 22nd. We encourage people to monitor our website for more details on this.

Local Approach for Mixing of mRNA Vaccines

As per the recent [NACI statement](#), those who received a first dose of an mRNA vaccine (Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna) should be offered the same mRNA vaccine for their second dose. If the same mRNA vaccine is not readily available or unknown, another mRNA vaccine can be considered interchangeable and should be offered to complete the vaccine series. While it continues to be preferable to provide the same vaccine product to complete an mRNA vaccine series, the Ministry of Health has indicated that if there is operational or logistic necessity, including the availability of vaccine products, a 'mixed mRNA model' is acceptable.

Based on this guidance and the limited supply of Moderna vaccine that we currently have available, we will be implementing this in our clinics when needed to ensure that people are not delayed in receiving their second dose to ensure their protection as soon as they are eligible. Those who received Moderna vaccine for their first dose that are now eligible for their second dose and would like to book their appointment can do so by calling the Provincial Vaccine Booking Line: 1-833-943-3900

When we have Moderna vaccine supply available, we will have a supply of it at our clinics for those who received it for their first dose, however if it is not available, we will offer the client Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine so that they can be vaccinated without delay.

Az Interval when receiving mRNA for Dose 2

As per NACI, the AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine clinical trials demonstrated optimal efficacy when the interval between the first and second doses was ≥ 12 weeks. Therefore, the current provincial interval of 12 weeks between doses is recommended regardless of the second dose being Az or mRNA.

A 12-week interval should also be used for those eligible for an earlier second dose (i.e. highest priority health care workers, indigenous adults and their household members, transplant recipients, cancer patients receiving active treatment, dialysis patients and those taking an anti-CD20 agents) unless their treating health care provider recommends that the second dose be given earlier for an optimal response based on their treatment regimen as 4 to 12 weeks is permitted by the product monograph.

Reports of Myocarditis/Pericarditis After COVID-19 Vaccine

Reports of myocarditis (inflammation of the heart muscle) and pericarditis (inflammation of the lining around the heart) following vaccination with COVID-19 mRNA vaccines have been reported in Israel and the United States. Available information indicates that:

- Cases were more commonly reported after the second dose
- Symptom onset was typically within several days after vaccination
- Cases were mainly adolescents and young adults
- Cases were more often males compared to females
- Cases experienced mild illness, responded well to conservative treatment and rest, and their symptoms improved quickly.

Follow-up on these cases is ongoing. **No clear association has been established between myocarditis/pericarditis and mRNA vaccines, and to date, no regulatory action has been taken in Canada or internationally.**

Myocarditis and pericarditis both involve inflammation of the heart in response to an infection or some other trigger. Symptoms can include shortness of breath, chest pain, or the feeling of a rapid or abnormal heart rhythm. Healthcare providers should consider myocarditis and pericarditis in evaluation of acute chest pain or pressure, arrhythmias, shortness of breath or other clinically compatible symptoms after vaccination. They should consider doing an electrocardiogram (ECG), troponins, and an echocardiogram, in consultation with a cardiologist. It would also be important to rule out other potential causes of myocarditis and pericarditis, as such, consultation with infectious disease and/or rheumatology is recommended, to assist in this evaluation, particularly for acute COVID-19 infection (e.g., PCR testing), prior SARS-CoV-2 infection (e.g., detection of SARS-CoV-2 nucleocapsid antibodies), and other viral etiologies (e.g., enterovirus PCR and comprehensive respiratory viral pathogen testing).

In Canada, there have been a small number of reports of pericarditis or myocarditis, following vaccination with a COVID-19 mRNA vaccine, however it is important to note that adverse events occurring after vaccination are not necessarily related to the vaccine. Based on the few reports received in Canada, we are not currently seeing higher rates than would be expected in the general population. Health care providers should be aware of this information, and as always report any Adverse Event Following Immunization to public health by completing an [Adverse Event Reporting form](#) and faxing to public health at 705-726-3962.

The benefits of the mRNA vaccines continue to outweigh their risks in the authorized populations, as there are clear benefits of mRNA vaccines in reducing deaths and hospitalizations due to COVID-19 infections.

Documentation of Out of Province Immunization

The functionality to record doses of COVID-19 vaccine administered outside of Ontario has been added to COVAX. Public Health Units (PHUs) are required to first validate the information (i.e. required to see the person's proof of immunization) and an image of the proof must be uploaded into the client's record in COVAX. This function must be performed by PHUs only.

For those who have received both doses outside of province, our website will be updated next week to allow people to securely submit their proof of immunization to us electronically for us to validate and upload into COVAX.

For those who received one dose out of province and need to book an appointment for their second dose please have them contact our Vaccine Appointment Booking Support Line at ext. 5997 to book an appointment. Clients will be required to bring their proof of immunization for their first dose to their appointment.

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](#).