

Dr. Charles Gardner, Medical Officer of Health  
Dr. Colin Lee, Associate Medical Officer of Health  
Dr. Lisa Simon, Associate Medical Officer of Health

## COVID-19 Vaccine: Update #37

### Ongoing Provision of COVID-19 Vaccine, Resumption of Public Health Routine Immunization Clinics and Fall Planning for Immunization

**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:** September 21, 2021

---

#### Ongoing Provision of COVID-19 Vaccine Throughout Simcoe Muskoka

As our pop-up clinics start to ramp down, we wanted to highlight the ways in which COVID-19 vaccine can continue to be accessed in our community:

- 29 Sperling, Barrie COVID-19 Immunization Clinic – we are pleased to share that Royal Victoria Regional Health Centre (RVH) will be continuing to operate this clinic through November:
  - Tuesdays and Thursdays from 2:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. and Sundays 10:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.
- [Participating pharmacies](#) – we strongly encourage all participating pharmacies to continue to stock vaccine as demand is expected to continue with people still needing their second dose, and third doses continuing.
- Through some primary care providers – thank you to those who are currently offering COVID-19 vaccine, either through your individual office or your primary care team. If you are not yet doing so and would like to do, please email [vaccineorders@smdhu.org](mailto:vaccineorders@smdhu.org) and our staff will be in touch to review the process with you.
- [GO VAXX bus](#) – some upcoming local dates are booked and we will be continuing to add more.
- A limited number of appointments for COVID-19 vaccine will be available at local public health offices by appointment. To book an appointment, please visit [our website](#).

#### Pre-filled Syringes Available at Health Unit Offices for Pick Up by HCPs and Facilities

We will be having a designated day each week where COVID-19 vaccine can be accessed in pre-filled syringes by health care providers and facilities who require a small number of doses. The schedule for when this will be available in each health unit office and the online order form can be found on our [website](#).



When coming to pick up pre-filled syringes, please ensure you bring a pre-conditioned cooler with a thermometer attached. You will be provided with the clinical supplies to administer your doses, COVAX Vaccine Event information, and the number of doses provided will be added to your COVAX vaccine event for you to document in COVAX when administered.

For your planning purposes, it is important to note that Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine will need to be administered within 6 hours of when it was prepared and Moderna vaccine will need to be administered within 24 hours of when it was prepared.

### **Resumption of Public Health Routine Immunization Clinic**

We are pleased to share that we will be resuming our regular public immunization clinics the week of September 27<sup>th</sup>. Our public immunization clinics are typically utilized by people who do not have a primary care provider; so we are pleased to be at a point where we can start offering this important service again to our community. We unfortunately have not been running these clinics since March 2020 as our immunization team was redeployed to COVID-19 response.

Initially our focus will be only on those 0-6 years of age who are overdue for their routine immunizations, and opening appointments to additional groups in the coming weeks (i.e. adolescent boosters, adult vaccinations). Clinics are by appointment only and we are launching an online appointment booking system which the public can access on our [website](#).

### **Grade 7 School Immunization Program and Catch Up for Students Who Missed Their Grade 7 Vaccines**

We are pleased to share that the School Immunization Program will be resuming in October. We will be offering Hepatitis B, Meningitis ACWY and Human Papillomavirus vaccines at school-based clinics as in previous years for the following:

- Grade 7 students this school year
- Grade 8 students this school year (who missed their Grade 7 vaccines last year)

We will be offering catch up clinics in our health unit offices on PA days and over the winter break for:

- Any students who miss their school clinics
- Online learners
- Those who may need to defer their vaccines due to timing with their COVID-19 vaccinations
- Grade 9 students this school year who missed their second doses in the 2019/20 school year due to the COVID-19 pandemic school closures. We may also potentially offer catch up clinics in the New Year for high school students.

Throughout the pandemic, primary care providers have been able to order these vaccines to provide to their eligible patients. Thank you for providing this to your patients during the COVID-19 pandemic. Primary care providers can continue to order school program vaccines for patients in Grade 8 and 9 if they wish.

## **Annual Universal Influenza Immunization Program Updates**

Our annual influenza vaccine Public Health Alert with all of the key information to inform your annual planning will be released later this week.

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

[www.smdhu.org/pcportal](http://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](http://www.smdhu.org/hpportal) as well as through [Public Health Ontario](#) and the [Government of Ontario](#).