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COVID-19 Vaccine: Update #47

Ongoing Booster Efforts, Vaccine Supply Update & Moderna for Boosters

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: December 29, 2021

Everyone **18 years of age and older** (born in 2003 and earlier) continues to be eligible to receive their booster dose at three months (84 days) following their second dose. The health unit is continuing to add capacity where we can to our community clinics and will continue to do so throughout January. The health unit also continues to direct capacity to those most at risk of severe disease (those over 50 years of age, those living in congregate settings and those with health conditions). We continue to encourage all health care partners to continue to provide booster doses in their own settings whenever possible.

While appointments are strongly encouraged for all health unit community clinics, **we will accept walk-ins if we are able to accommodate** (excluding the Georgian Mall location which is only by appointment) for anyone needing:

- a first or second dose
- booster doses for those who are at least three months (**84 days**) from their second dose and in the following priority groups:
 - 50 years of age and older
 - Health care workers
 - Indigenous people and their 16+ household members
 - Those who received two doses of AstraZeneca vaccine or one dose of Janssen vaccine

We will continue to monitor demand for walk-ins and will lower the age band as soon as demand allows.

The 29 Sperling Clinic in Barrie continues to accept walk ins for dose 1 and 2 only for those 12+.

Appointments at various other providers in our community (including the 29 Sperling Drive Barrie COVID-19 Vaccine Clinic and clinics being offered by the Cottage Country Family Health Team in Gravenhurst and the Algonquin Family Health Team in Huntsville) are also available on the [provincial booking portal](#) or by



calling the Provincial Vaccine Contact Centre at 1-833-943-3900. The GOVAXX bus is now by appointment only with appointments booked using the provincial portal. We understand that appointments will only be made available the day before the GOVAXX clinic.

In addition to booking through the provincial portal, the following options continue to be available:

- Couchiching Ontario Health Team Clinics at Orillia Soldiers Memorial Hospital – by [appointment](#)
- [Participating pharmacies](#)
- Through some primary care providers

Pfizer Vaccine Shortage – Moderna to be Offered to those 30+ for Boosters

- While there is enough mRNA vaccine in Ontario for everyone eligible to receive their booster, there is currently a limited supply of adult (12+) Pfizer. Paediatric (5-11) Pfizer remains widely available.
- Moderna vaccine is to be preferentially provided to those 30 years of age and older as per provincial direction.
- Those under 30 will continue to be offered Pfizer vaccine based on the NACI recommendation for Pfizer for this age group to further minimize the rare risk of adolescents and young adults experiencing myocarditis and/or pericarditis.
- Pfizer and Moderna are both mRNA vaccines. Since they use the same technology, they can be safely mixed and will provide a strong immune response that protects against severe illness.
- Some evidence already suggests Moderna produces somewhat higher antibody levels compared to Pfizer. Vaccination and boosters with Moderna may also provide longer-lasting protection against infection and severe illness.
- Omicron is spreading quickly through our community. Residents who wait for a preferred brand could put their health and their family at serious risk.

Reminder to Long Term Care Homes and Retirement Homes

For homes that have staff onboarded with COVAX, continue to order COVID vaccine as needed to ensure that all residents and staff receive their booster doses. A COVID-19 [vaccine order](#) can be submitted for full vials required (noting Moderna is now in a 10 x 0.5 mL dose vial) or alternatively, homes can [complete a request form](#) to pick up prefilled syringes when only a small number are required from one of our community clinics. It is important that high coverage remain in these settings to protect residents, who are vulnerable and at risk of severe disease.

For homes that do not have staff to administer the vaccine, inquire with other health care providers who provide service in the home (physicians, NPs, pharmacists). If there is no provider available, homes can call our Health Care Provider Vaccine Line at ext. 8806 to request mobile vaccination by health unit staff their residents. Due to our capacity at this time this may take several weeks for us to complete.

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.

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](#).