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COVID-19 Vaccine: Update #68

Closure of 29 Sperling COVID-19 Vaccine Clinic, Plans for COVID-19 Vaccination into 2024 & Approval of Novavax XBB 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, Ontario Health Central, Indigenous Health Care & Community, Long-term Care Homes, Retirement Homes, Hospices, Coroners, Funeral Directors, Dentists, Group Homes, Homes for Special Care, Optometrists, Corrections, Municipalities, Licensed Childcare Providers

Date: December 6, 2023

29 Sperling COVID-19 Vaccine Clinic Closing December 20th, 2023

The Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit (SMDHU) is closing the COVID-19 vaccine clinic at 29 Sperling Drive in Barrie, with the last day of operation on Wednesday December 20th, 2023.

This location has been the longest standing community COVID-19 vaccine clinic, operated by SMDHU and Royal Victoria Regional Health Centre (RVH) since December 2020. The clinic will continue to operate on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays until December 20th from 9am – 4pm. People who have not yet received their fall dose of COVID-19 vaccine are welcome to walk into the clinic without an appointment.

SMDHU Plans for COVID-19 Vaccination into 2024

Specific COVID-19 vaccination funding support for public health units is ending in the new year. The health unit will have very limited capacity to support COVID-19 vaccination into 2024. At this time, the following supports for COVID-19 vaccination will continue until March 31, 2024:

- Outreach clinics in the community for priority populations
- Support for long-term care and retirement homes
- Homebound vaccination
- Continued COVID-19 vaccine distribution to facilities and health care providers providing COVID-19 vaccine
- Novavax XBB vaccine clinics once a month in Barrie

The general public will need to access their COVID-19 vaccine going forward primarily through pharmacies or potentially with some primary care providers who are providing COVID-19 vaccinations.



Novavax XBB COVID-19 Vaccine Approved by Health Canada

On December 5, 2023, Health Canada authorized the XBB formulation of Novavax vaccine. The health unit continues to offer one clinic a month in Barrie by appointment only for people who cannot, or will not receive the recommended mRNA COVID-19 vaccines. Anyone wanting to book an appointment to receive Novavax vaccine can call Health Connection at 705-721-7520 or 1-877-721-7520 to book an appointment for the next clinic.

COVID-19 Vaccine Ordering Information for Health Care Providers and Facilities

COVID-19 vaccine has become easier to store and handle over time, and the product formats are smaller for some products making use of the vaccine less prohibitive for vaccine delivery agents. If your practice or facility would like to order COVID-19 vaccine to have available for clients, please use the following [COVID-19 vaccine order form](#). Here is a summary table of the current mRNA vaccines available to health care providers:

Vaccine Info	Pfizer XBB COVID-19 Vaccine			Moderna XBB COVID-19 Vaccine
Cap & Label	12 years + Grey cap & label	5 to 11 yr Blue cap & label	6 mth–4yr Maroon cap & label	6 months and up Royal blue cap/coral blue label
Dose	30 mcg / 0.3 mL	10 mcg / 0.3 mL	3 mcg / 0.2 mL	6 months through 11 years = 25 mcg / 0.25 mL 12 years and older = 50 mcg / 0.5 mL
Dilution	No	No	Yes 2.2 mL/vial	No
Vaccine Storage and Handling				
Unpunctured at 2-8°C	Up to 10 weeks from thaw date			Up to 30 days
Punctured	12 hours			24 hours
Vial size	6 doses	6 doses	10 doses	2.5 mL = 5 doses x 0.5 mL or up to 10 when 0.25 mL doses drawn

A reminder to all HCPs that all doses of COVID-19 vaccine in Ontario must be documented in the COVAXon system. If you have new staff in your facility that require set up or accounts that need to be reset, please email covaxsupport@smdhu.org

We ask that when documenting in COVAXon, all users ensure that the client's information is up to date.

This is especially important for residents in long-term care homes and retirement homes. Please be sure to update the reason for immunization to LTCH Rhome resident, and the institution to the current location that the client is living.

For more information:

For more detailed information about eligibility and guidance, please refer to the [Ministry of Health COVID-19 Vaccine Guidance](#) document.

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

To help you determine the best ways to protect yourself and others from COVID-19 infection and serious illness, refer to the SMDHU [COVID-19 Community Risk Tool](#).