

We are pleased to announce that effective the afternoon of Friday March 12th, we will be launching a pre-registration portal for all of the remaining priority groups in Simcoe Muskoka who are included in Phase one of the provincial vaccine roll-out to register to receive their vaccine. One exception is the population of those 80 years of age and older, who will starting on Monday March 15th be able to book an appointment directly on the new provincial booking system website to receive their vaccine.

Only those eligible to receive the vaccine as part of the Phase 1 priority groups listed below are to register at this time. People will be required to show proof of eligibility at the clinics and will be turned away if they do not qualify. To view what proof of eligibility will be required for each group, please refer to the SMDHU [website](#) on or after March 12, 2021.

Once registered on the SMDHU website, those who are eligible will be placed in the queue to receive the vaccine. This could take days or weeks to complete based on vaccine supply and volume. When an appointment is available, the person will be sent an email invitation with a booking code to book their appointment on the provincial booking system. Note that this does not happen immediately. People will be required to provide an email address for this service.

Those who are eligible for vaccination in Simcoe Muskoka at this time include all of the following provincial Phase 1 priority groups, who have been eligible to date or are newly eligible:

- Staff, essential caregivers, and any residents in:
 - Long-term care homes
 - Retirement homes
 - First Nations elder care homes
 - Other seniors congregate settings
- Alternative level of care patients in hospitals who have a confirmed admission to a long-term care home, retirement home or other congregate care home for seniors
- Adults 80 years of age and older (born anytime in 1941 or prior)
- All Indigenous adults (living on-reserve or urban) and their adult household members
 - Note: Adult is defined as age 16+ based on birth date, not birth year, due to authorization of the vaccine for age 16 and up.
- Adult recipients of chronic home care
- **Frontline** health care workers identified as Highest Priority, Very High Priority, or High Priority in the [Ministry of Health’s guidance on Health Care Worker Prioritization, as follows:](#)

Highest Priority Health Care Workers	
All hospital and acute care staff in frontline roles with COVID-19 patients and/or with a high-risk of exposure to COVID-19, including those performing aerosol-generating procedures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Critical care units • Emergency departments and urgent care departments • COVID-19 medical units • Code blue teams, rapid response teams • General internal medicine and other specialists involved in the direct care of COVID-19 positive patients
All patient-facing health care workers involved in the COVID-19 response	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • COVID-19 specimen collection centers (e.g., assessment centers, community COVID-19 testing locations)

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Teams supporting outbreak response (e.g., IPAC teams supporting outbreak management, inspectors in the patient environment, redeployed health care workers supporting outbreaks or staffing crisis in congregate living settings) COVID-19 vaccine clinics and mobile immunization teams Mobile testing teams COVID-19 isolation centers COVID-19 laboratory services
Medical first responders	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ORNGE, paramedics Firefighters and police providing medical first response
Community health care workers serving specialized populations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Needle exchange/syringe programs, supervised consumption and treatment services Aboriginal health access centers, Indigenous community health centers, Indigenous interprofessional primary care teams, and Indigenous nurse practitioner-led clinics Home and community care health care workers caring for recipients of chronic homecare and seniors in congregate living facilities or providing hands-on care to COVID-19 patients in the community <p>Special considerations for the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community health centers serving disproportionately affected communities and/or communities experiencing highest burden of health, social and economic impacts from COVID-19 Highly critical health care workers in remote and hard to access communities, e.g., sole practitioner
Very High Priority Health Care Workers	
Acute care and other hospital settings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Patient care areas not included in Highest Priority (e.g., surgical care, obstetrics, etc.)
Congregate settings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assisted living, correctional settings, residential facilities, hospices and palliative

	care settings, shelters, supportive housing (outside of Highest Priority level)
Community care with high risk of exposure and serving specialized patient populations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community health centers, home and community care (outside of the Highest Priority level), adult day programs for seniors
Other health care services for Indigenous populations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community agencies with patient-facing providers delivering any type of health services to First Nations communities and Indigenous Peoples that are not captured in Highest Priority
Community care with high risk of exposure and serving the general population	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Birth centres, community based specialists, death investigation professionals (including funeral home staff handling deceased persons and entering healthcare facilities), dentistry, gynecology/obstetrics, midwifery, nurse practitioner-led clinics / contract nursing agencies, otolaryngology (ENT), pharmacies, primary care, respirology (respiratory therapy), walk-in clinics
Laboratory services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Those who are either patient facing or work with lab specimens
High Priority Health Care Workers	
Community care with lower risk of exposure and serving special populations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Developmental services, mental health and addictions services
Community care with lower risk of exposure and serving general population	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Campus health, community diagnostic imaging, daycare/school nursing, dietary/nutrition, independent health facilities (e.g., opticians/optometry, podiatry, audiology, medical and surgical specialties, naturopathy/holistic care, social work, sexual health clinics)
Non-acute rehabilitation and therapy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chiropractic, chronic pain clinics, kinesiology, occupational therapy, physiotherapy, psychiatry, psychology, psychotherapy, registered massage therapy / acupuncture, other therapy
Public health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All other public health

As a member of one of these groups, we wanted to share that you, your organization and/or your sector are now eligible to receive the vaccine if you meet the eligibility criteria. Please feel free to forward this information to others in your sector who also meet these eligibility criteria. For professional colleges and associations receiving this message, please consider forwarding this information to your members who work and/or live in Simcoe Muskoka.

We are offering community clinics by appointment only at the following locations:

Region	Clinic Locations
Barrie and Area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 29 Sperling Drive, Barrie • Holly Recreation Centre, Barrie • Innisfil Recreation Complex
Muskoka Region	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Active Living Centre, Huntsville • Bracebridge Sportsplex
Couchiching Area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rotary Place, Orillia
North Simcoe	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • North Simcoe Sports and Recreation Centre, Midland • Penetanguishene Arena
South Georgian Bay	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collingwood Legion (Drive thru) • Recplex Community Centre, Wasaga Beach (Drive thru)
South Simcoe	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alliston Memorial Arena • Tottenham Community Centre • Bob Fallis Arena, Bradford

***Clinic locations where immunization will take place are for those who have pre-booked appointments only.**

Not all clinics will be open every day, and dates and times will vary with vaccine supply. Details will be provided at time of booking.

For more information about the COVID-19 vaccine, please visit our website at www.simcoemuskokahealth.org