

More people eligible for COVID-19 vaccine booster dose

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Thursday, November 4, 2021

Huron Perth, ON – To provide extra protection against COVID-19, Ontario is expanding eligibility for booster doses of the COVID-19 vaccine to additional high-risk groups. The announcement was made Wednesday, Nov. 3, by the province’s Chief Medical Officer of Health and aligns with evidence and recommendations from the National Advisory Committee on Immunization.

The extra layer of protection that a booster dose of vaccine provides will help in the continued fight against COVID-19, especially the highly transmissible Delta variant. “I am pleased that individuals who are at increased risk of waning immunity, and of exposure to COVID-19, will be able to get a booster dose of vaccine,” says Dr. Miriam Klassen, Medical Officer of Health for Huron Perth. “This is a welcome added layer of protection.”

The following individuals will be eligible for a booster dose when **at least six months have passed since their last dose**:

- Individuals aged 70 and over (born in 1951 or earlier);
- Health care workers as outlined in provincial guidance.
- Designated essential caregivers in congregate settings (including long-term care home and retirement home staff and designated caregivers);
- Individuals who received a complete series of a viral vector vaccine (two doses of the AstraZeneca vaccine or one dose of the Janssen vaccine); and
- First Nation, Inuit and Métis adults and their non-Indigenous household members.

Immunocompromised individuals continue to be eligible for a third dose **two months after their second dose**. A complete list of eligibility is provided at www.hpph.ca/thirddose.

For the general population, evidence continues to show that two doses of vaccine provide strong protection against COVID-19 infection and severe outcomes, such as hospitalization, ICU admission, and death. Over time, the province is prepared to expand eligibility for booster doses to all Ontarians, based on age and risk.

A complete two-dose vaccination series continues to meet all proof of vaccination requirements.

Huron Perth Public Health (HPPH) is able to accept those eligible for third doses at our clinics now. Either mRNA vaccine (Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna) may be used as a booster dose, regardless of which vaccine was received for the first or second dose. COVID-19 vaccine can be given at the same time, or any time before or after another immunization, such as the influenza immunization (“flu shot”).

Please make sure you are eligible before attending a clinic. Visit www.hpph.ca/thirddose to see if you are eligible for a third dose. If you are eligible due to being immunocompromised, you will be asked for documentation from your

healthcare provider or to attest to your medical condition and attest that you have received direction from your healthcare provider to receive a third dose.

If you come to a clinic but are not eligible, you will be turned away.

HPPH clinics for the entire month of November are now available at www.hpph.ca/vaccinebooking. We continue to welcome individuals receiving their first and second doses, as well as those eligible for a third dose.

As of November 5, HPPH vaccination clinics will be by appointment only. Clinics will be held in some smaller communities, at the Stratford Rotary Complex and Goderich Memorial arena, as well as at HPPH's Clinton and Stratford sites.

- To book an appointment, visit www.hpph.ca/vaccinebooking or call 1-833-753-2098.
- Please subscribe to the HPPH vaccine webpage, www.hpph.ca/vaccinebooking if you would like to get updates about eligibility and clinic availability.
- Many local pharmacies are also still offering COVID-19 vaccines. A complete list is available at <https://covid-19.ontario.ca/vaccine-locations>.

For more information:

- Huron Perth Public Health: 1-888-221-2133
- Visit www.hpph.ca/thirddose and www.hpph.ca/vaccinebooking
- Follow us on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) @HPPublicHealth

– 30 –

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