

## COVID-19 VACCINE UPDATE #16 FROM HALTON REGION PUBLIC HEALTH

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TO: Halton Physicians, Nurse Practitioners, Emergency Departments, Pharmacists

FROM: Dr. Joanna Oda, Associate Medical Officer of Health

DATE: March 10, 2021

RE: COVID-19 Vaccine Update 16: age-based eligibility, new vaccines, extended intervals and local update

### QUICK FACTS

- [COVID-19 vaccine eligibility](#) is age-based for the public. Eligibility for Healthcare workers is based on the [province's prioritization guidance](#). There are currently **no exceptions** for special populations or those with pre-existing conditions. Please do not provide notes for your patients or ask them to call Public Health to receive priority status.
- Healthcare worker eligibility in the Highest and Very High priority category has now been expanded to those who live **or** work in Halton.
- [AstraZeneca and Johnson and Johnson vaccines](#) have been approved for use in Canada. We will provide more details on how the approval of these vaccines will impact Halton's COVID-19 vaccine rollout plan in future vaccine updates.
- Halton Region Public Health is **not** part of the provincial AstraZeneca pilot for either primary care or pharmacies. Once we have information on how new vaccines will be available in Halton, we will communicate it with you.
- NACI has released a [rapid response document](#) recommending that communities should maximize the number of individuals benefitting from the first dose of vaccine by extending the interval for the second dose of vaccine to four months.
- More than 16,495 people over 80 have booked COVID-19 vaccination appointments, representing more than 73% of all adults over 80 in Halton. If you know of any patients 80+, please encourage them to sign up for their vaccination at [halton.ca/COVIDvaccines](https://halton.ca/COVIDvaccines).
- Adults receiving chronic home care (through a LHIN or Home Care Agency) who are eligible to receive the vaccine will be called by Halton Healthcare in the next few weeks to book an appointment at OTMH. People 80+ can either book an appointment at a location in the community [online](#) or wait for Halton Healthcare to call and book an appointment at OTMH. We continue to plan and work with partners on how to provide vaccines to individuals who are unable to attend a clinic.

### ADDITIONAL RESOURCES:

- [COVID-19 vaccine Frequently Asked Questions](#), Halton Region
- The [Ministry of Long-Term Care has launched a new toolkit](#) to promote vaccine safety and share the facts about vaccines and vaccination.
- Immunize Canada has various resources to help support COVID-19 immunization with your patients.
  - [Preparing for your COVID-19 vaccine: Guides for adults, older adults and caregivers of older adults](#)
  - [Needle Fear resource](#)
  - [Immunization pain management resources for clinicians](#)

Please report all suspected/confirmed cases of [Diseases of Public Health Significance](#) to Public Health immediately by calling 311, 905-825-6000 or toll free at 1-866-442-5866.

PLEASE POST IN EMERGENCY DEPARTMENTS AND PHYSICIAN LOUNGES – IF YOU CAN'T ACCESS HYPERLINKS OR DIDN'T RECEIVE IN FULL, PLEASE EMAIL [DOCTORS@HALTON.CA](mailto:DOCTORS@HALTON.CA) FOR ELECTRONIC COPY.