

HALTON REGION PUBLIC HEALTH • Office of the Medical Officer of Health

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TO: Halton Physicians, Nurse Practitioners, Emergency Departments, other Healthcare Providers

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

DATE: April 5, 2021

RE COVID-19 Vaccine Update 25: Pharmacy locations open in Halton to vaccinate 55+, Medical exceptions to extended dose interval

Quick Facts

- The Province has added more pharmacy locations, including 19 in Halton, that will be offering the AstraZeneca/COVISHIELD vaccine to individuals 55 years of age and older. Eligible residents can book directly through the pharmacy. Please visit ontario.ca/pharmacycovidvaccine. **Individuals 55 years of age and older are strongly encouraged to seek immunization early.**
- A small primary care pilot to administer AstraZeneca/COVISHIELD has begun in Halton. Details will be shared in the near future.
- On [March 26, 2021](#), the Province recommended that individuals with certain medical conditions receive the COVID-19 vaccine at the dose interval indicated in the vaccine monograph, rather than having an extended dose interval.
- Vaccine product monograph dose intervals are:
 - [Pfizer vaccine](#): 21 days
 - [Moderna vaccine](#): 28 days
 - [AstraZeneca vaccine](#): 4 to 12 weeks

Exceptions to Extended Dose Interval

- Medical conditions included in this recommendation are:
 - Transplant recipients including solid organ transplants and hematopoietic stem cell transplants.
 - Individuals with malignant hematologic disorders and non-hematologic malignant solid tumors receiving **active** treatment (chemotherapy, targeted therapies, immunotherapy).
 - Excluding individuals receiving solely hormonal therapy or radiation therapy
- Patients with these medical conditions must also be [currently eligible to receive the COVID-19 vaccine in Halton](#) to be able to book their vaccine appointments.
- Exceptions are ONLY for the medical conditions above. Halton Region Public Health has no authority to provide exceptions outside of the [provincial recommendations](#).

Identify and Contact your Patients

Halton Region Public Health is asking for your assistance. Please:

- Identify patients in your practice who have the medical conditions above.
- Identify which of these patients are [currently eligible to receive the COVID-19 vaccine](#) in Halton.

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 PROVIDE A COPY TO ALL PHYSICIANS IN YOUR OFFICE AND/OR POST IN EMERGENCY DEPARTMENTS AND PHYSICIAN LOUNGES. IF YOU HAVE ANY ISSUES WITH THIS ATTACHMENT, PLEASE EMAIL DOCTORS@HALTON.CA.

- Communicate with this group of patients to share they are eligible for the exception to the extended dose interval for COVID-19 vaccines, and advise them of the required steps to take to book their COVID-19 vaccine appointments.

Physicians who assist their patients with the above conditions to rebook their appointments may bill using the new Patient Facilitation Fee (Q007). Please consider this Advisory as documentation that physician support has been formally requested. Please refer to [Ministry INFOBulletin 210301](#) for more information.

Steps for Physicians and Patients

Halton Region Public Health and Halton Healthcare are working together to coordinate vaccine appointments for individuals with medical exceptions to the extended dose intervals for COVID-19. [Exception Forms](#) are required and must be completed by the patient and physician **PRIOR** to booking a vaccine appointment.

Physicians and patients with medical exceptions must follow the steps below to complete the [Exception Form](#) and book their COVID-19 vaccine appointments.

Patient:

1. Downloads the required [Exception Form](#) from halton.ca/COVID19
2. Completes the “Client Information” section on the form
3. Books an appointment with their physician to review the form and request completion

Physician/HCP:

4. Reviews the Exception Form and determine if the patient has the medical conditions noted above for the exception
5. If yes, completes the “Physician Information” section of the form, including verifying what vaccine the patient initially received, if they already received their first dose
6. Returns the completed form to patient, to present at their appointment

Patient:

7. If **already received** their first dose of vaccine, calls **Halton Healthcare at 905-203-7965** to reschedule their second dose appointment. Patients may not use the Halton Region online booking system. Appointments at the shortened interval are available at Oakville Trafalgar Memorial Hospital only.
8. If **has not received** their first dose of vaccine, and is [currently eligible in Halton](#), calls Halton Healthcare at 905-203-7965 to schedule their first and second dose appointments. Appointments are available at Oakville Trafalgar Memorial Hospital only.
9. Must bring the completed Exception Form to their second dose appointment. Patients will be turned away without a completed form.