



Health Care Professional Town Hall: COVID-19 vaccination

Wednesday, March 24, 2021



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YouTube

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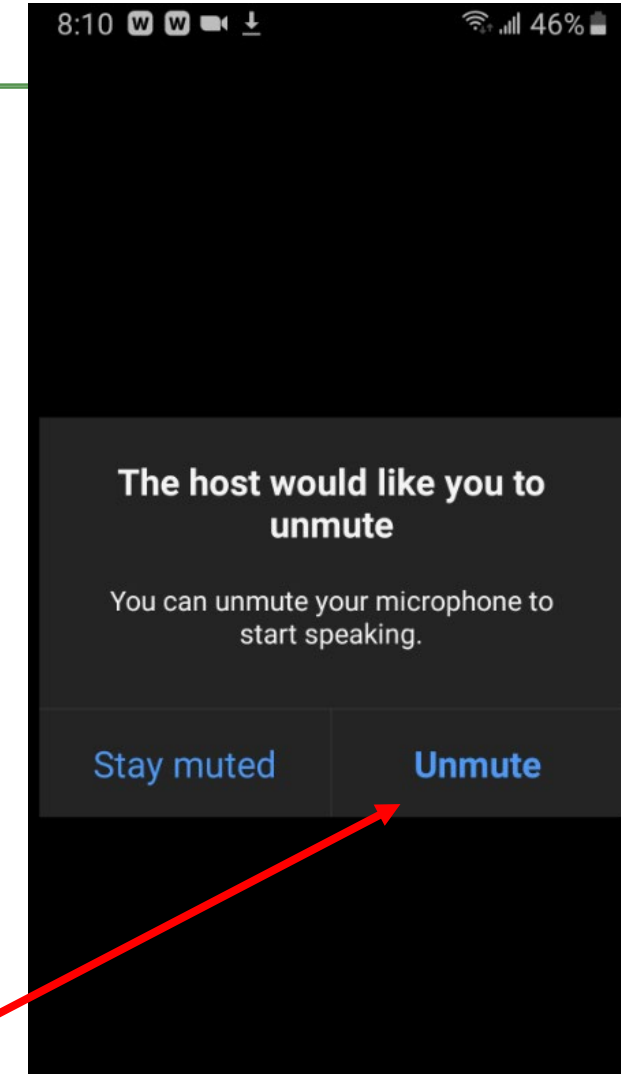
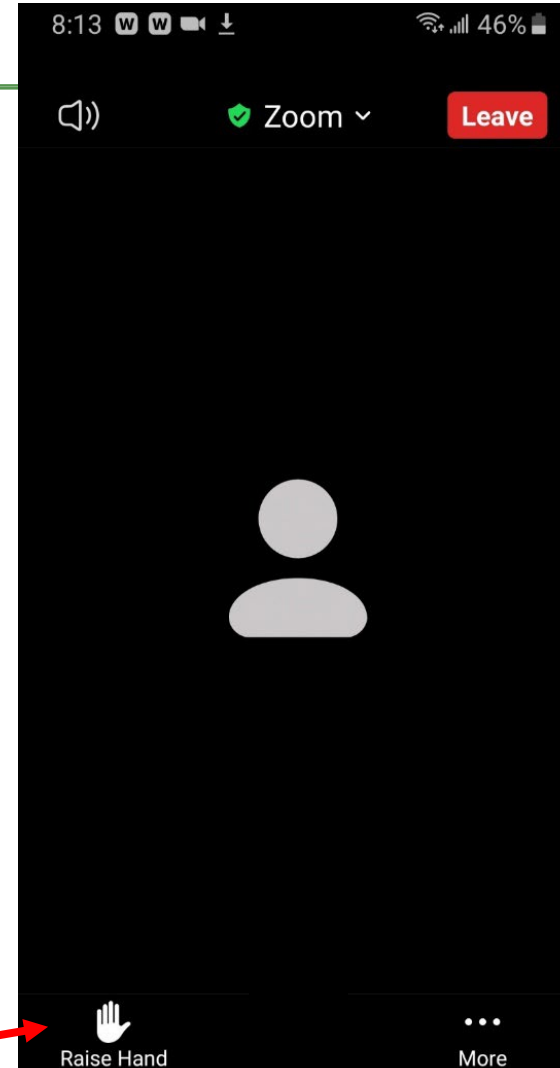
Agenda

Time	Focus
5 p.m.	Updates on COVID-19 vaccine roll-out in Halton – Dr. Hamidah Meghani, Halton Region's Medical Officer of Health
5:30 p.m.	Questions and Answer session – Dr. Hamidah Meghani, Dr. Joanna Oda and Dr. Deepika Lobo, Halton Region Public Health



Housekeeping

- If you run into technical difficulties, please email Niels.Rasmussen@halton.ca
- If you don't have a microphone on your device, email your question to doctors@halton.ca



COVID-19 cases in Halton

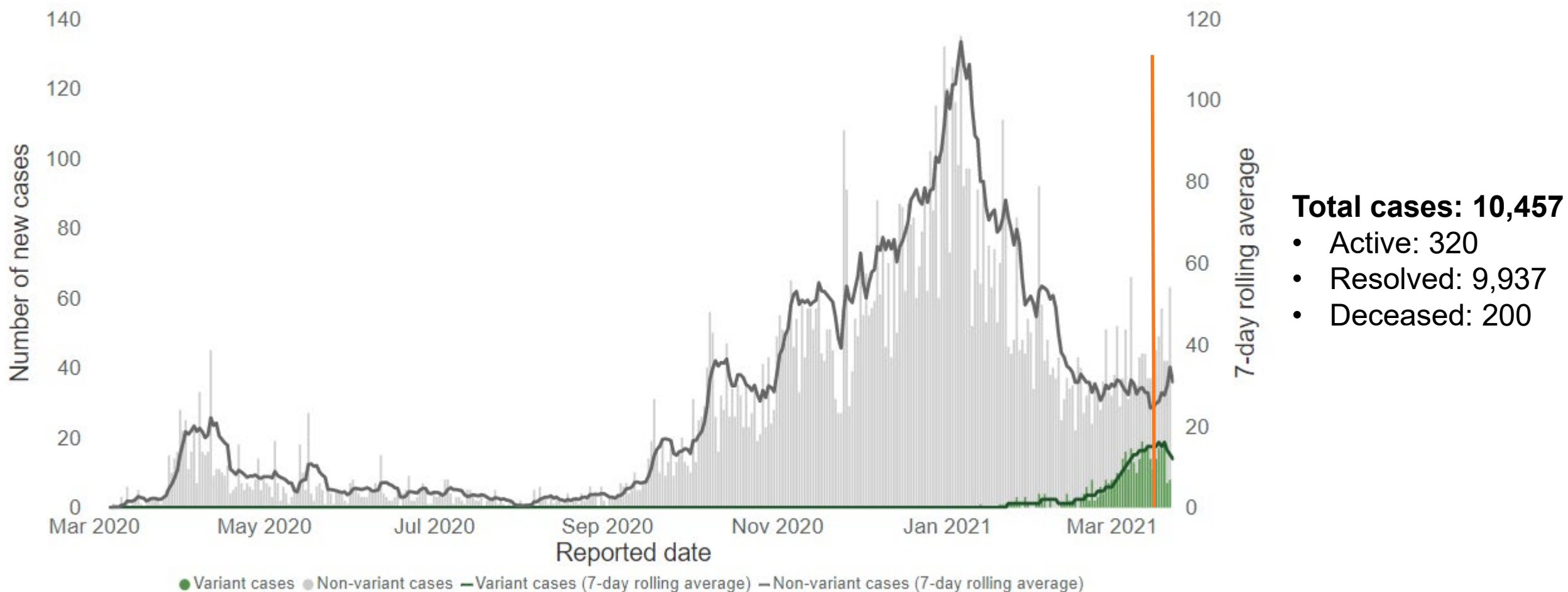
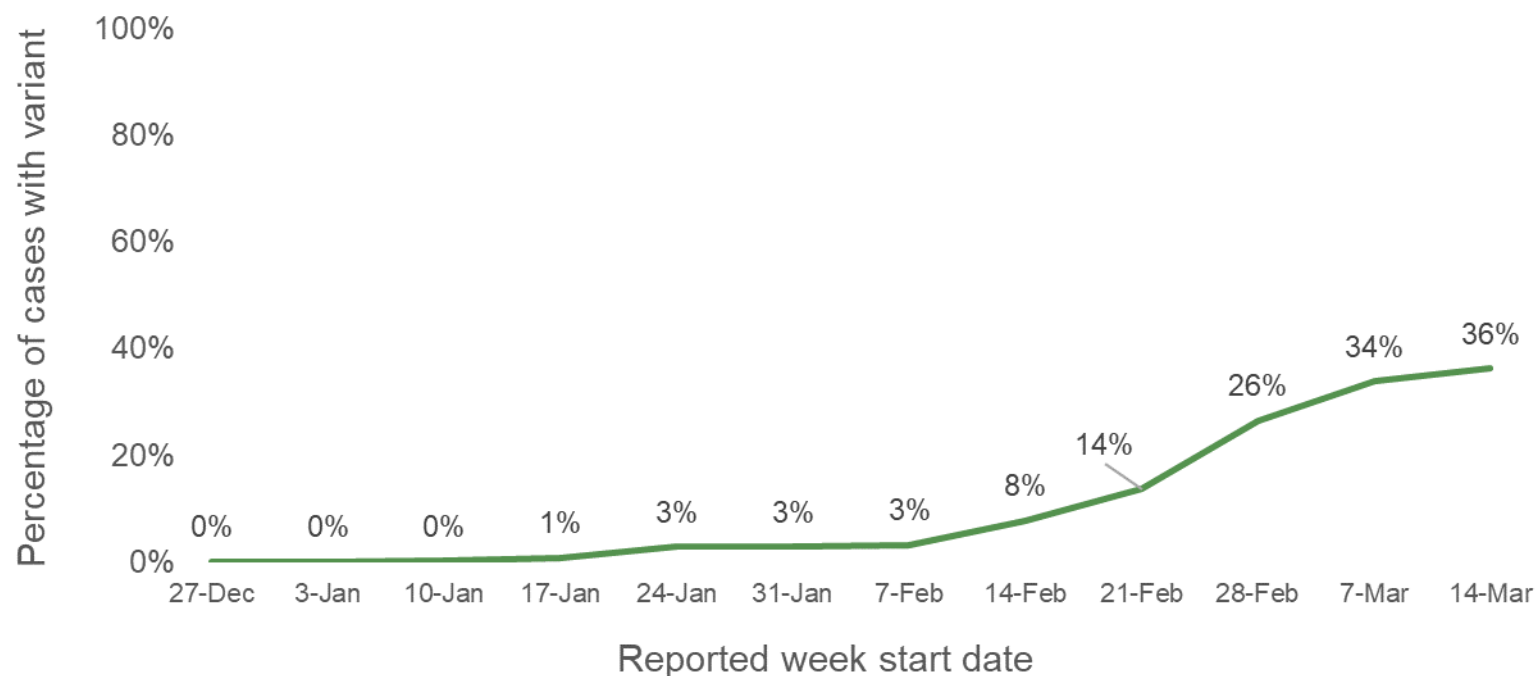


Fig: Number of new COVID-19 cases in Halton residents, by reported date and variant status, Mar 1 2020-Mar 22 2021

COVID-19 variants in Halton (I)



Doubling time

- Variant cases: ~1.7 weeks
- Non-variant cases: ~12.6 weeks

Reproduction number

- Variant cases: 1.1
- Non-variant cases: 0.8

Fig: Percentage of new COVID-19 cases in Halton residents with confirmed or likely variant, by reported week, Dec 27 2020-Mar 20 2021

COVID-19 variants in Halton (II)

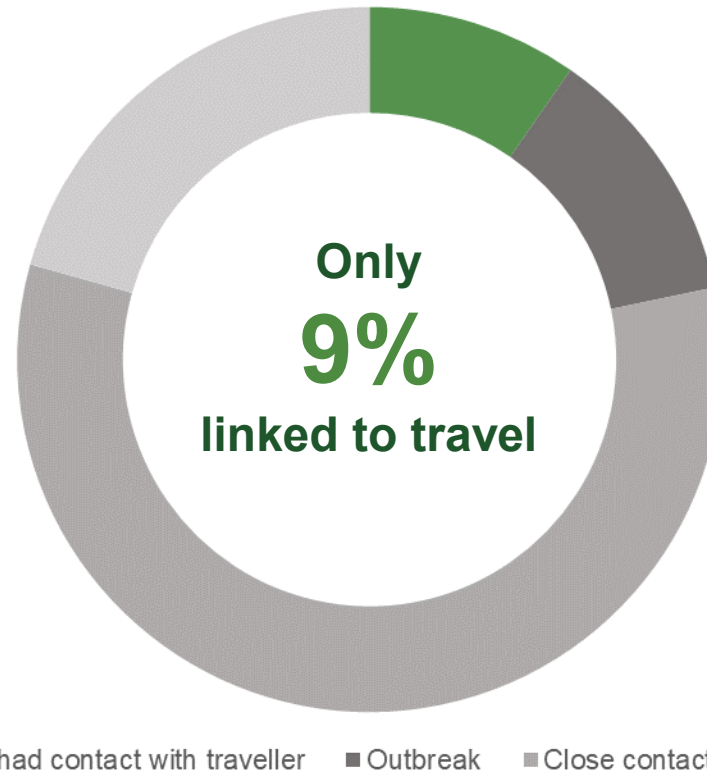


Fig: Percentage of variant COVID-19 cases with a link to travel, by Mar 22 2021



Vaccine Rollout Progress and Update

COVID-19 vaccines: Recent progress (I)

FEBRUARY

MARCH

February 21

Second doses for long-term care and high-risk retirement home residents completed

March 6

Clinic opened at Gellert Community Centre, Georgetown

First doses for non high-risk retirement home residents completed

March 12

Clinic opened at Joseph Brant Hospital, Burlington

March 16

Clinic opened at FirstOntario Arts Centre, Milton

March 19

Adults 75+ and Indigenous adults 55+ became eligible

March 3

Halton online booking system for 80+ launched

March 9

Clinic opened at St. Volodymyr Cultural Centre, Oakville

March 14

Clinic opened at Compass Point Bible Church, Burlington

March 15-18

First doses given to staff and inmates at correctional facilities

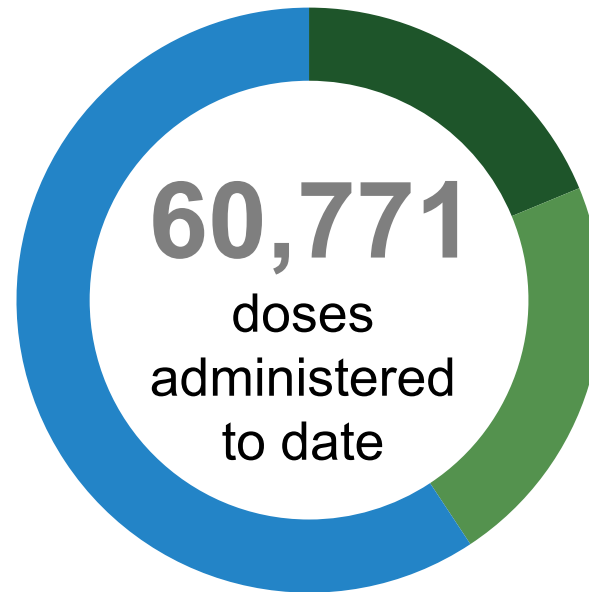
March 26

Adults 70+ will become eligible



COVID-19 vaccines: Recent progress (II)

As of end of day on March 22, 2021:



■ Halton Community Clinics
(11,394 doses)

■ Halton Region Public Health and Paramedic Mobile Teams
(13,341 doses)

■ Halton Healthcare Vaccination Centre
(36,036 doses)



Mobile clinics

- Non high-risk retirement home residents
- High-risk congregate setting residents



Vaccine Roll-out: Halton COVID-19 Vaccine Distribution Plan

Timing	December 2020 –Spring 2021		March-Summer 2021		Beginning Summer 2021
Phase	Phase 1		Phase 2		Phase 3
Priority Populations	<div>14,152</div> <div>Congregate living for seniors (residents, staff and essential caregivers)</div>		<div>105,379</div> <div>Adults 60-79</div>		<div>370,000</div> <div>Remaining eligible residents in Halton (ages 16-59)</div>
	<div>2,906</div> <div>Adult chronic home care recipients</div>		<div>125,000</div> <div>People with chronic conditions (ages 16-64)</div>		
	<div>25,249</div> <div>Older adults 80+</div>	<div>24,705</div> <div>Healthcare workers</div>	<div>70,000-100,000</div> <div>Essential workers</div>		
	<div>4,080-16,320</div> <div>Adults in First Nations, Métis and Inuit populations</div>		<div>?</div> <div>Other at-risk populations</div>		
Possible Vaccination Models (TBC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Mass Immunization Clinics (hospital-led)Mobile/On-site Immunization Clinics		<ul style="list-style-type: none">Mass Immunization Clinics (hospital-led)Mass Immunization Clinics (PHU-led)Mobile/On-site Immunization ClinicsOther Clinics (Pharmacy, Healthcare Partners)		<ul style="list-style-type: none">Other Clinics (Pharmacy, Healthcare Partners)Mass Immunization Clinics (PHU-led)

Current eligible priority populations



- Adults aged 75 years or older who live in Halton



- Indigenous adults aged 55 years or older who live in Halton



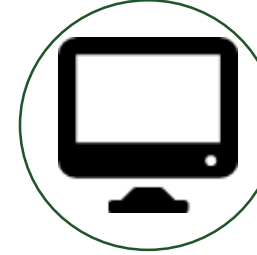
- Staff and essential caregivers of Halton long-term care homes and retirement residences



- Highest, Very High and High priority healthcare workers who live or work in Halton



- Adults receiving home care from LHIN

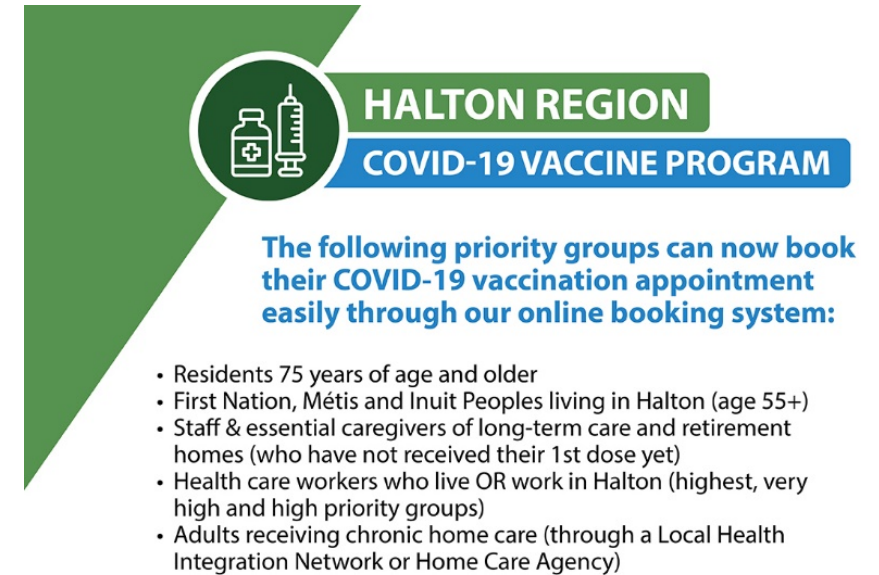


Book appointments online at
halton.ca/COVIDvaccines



Expanding eligibility

- Please don't write notes for your patients – age and profession based eligibility
- Phase 2 will expand to include some medical conditions
- We will communicate eligibility and requirements for booking appointments



HALTON REGION
COVID-19 VACCINE PROGRAM

The following priority groups can now book their COVID-19 vaccination appointment easily through our online booking system:

- Residents 75 years of age and older
- First Nation, Métis and Inuit Peoples living in Halton (age 55+)
- Staff & essential caregivers of long-term care and retirement homes (who have not received their 1st dose yet)
- Health care workers who live OR work in Halton (highest, very high and high priority groups)
- Adults receiving chronic home care (through a Local Health Integration Network or Home Care Agency)

For more information visit halton.ca/COVIDvaccines.



Primary care and COVID-19 vaccination

Supply
issues

LTCH/RRs

- Halton Healthcare
- Mobile clinics (Paramedics)

Admin
burden

Current
eligible
populations

- Community clinics
- Exploring other options, e.g., physicians, pharmacies



Vaccines



COVID-19 vaccines



- For people 16 years and over
- 2 doses required,
- Storage & transport: frozen at -20 °C



- For people 18 years and over
- 2 doses required
- Storage & transport: frozen at -20 °C



- For people 18 years and over
- 2 doses require
- Storage & transport: refrigerated at 2-8 °C



- For people 18 years and over
- 1 dose required
- Storage & transport: refrigerated at 2-8 °C



Vaccine effectiveness

Trial efficacy	Pfizer	Moderna	AstraZeneca	Janssen (J&J)
Overall efficacy rate (clinical trial data)	95.0%	94.1%	59.9%	66.9%
Efficacy rate against severe disease	>1-14 days after dose 2: 75-100%	14 days after dose 2: 100%	After dose 2: 100%	28 days after dose: 85.4%
Number of trial participants who developed severe disease	1 vaccine/9 placebo	0 vaccine/30 placebo	0 vaccine/8 placebo	4 weeks after: 5 vaccine/34 placebo

Astra Zeneca safety

- Rare cases of unusual blood clots with low levels of blood platelets
- Health Canada assessed data and determined AZ vaccine not associated with increase in overall risk of blood clots
- European Medical Agency (EMA), has reviewed 20 million AZ vaccinations to date in Europe and UK and determined that it's a **safe and effective vaccine** and the benefits in protecting people outweigh the risks of side effects
- Ongoing safety monitoring continues

Vaccine interval increased

- Vaccine interval increased to four months
- Increasing the number of people receiving the first dose earlier
- Increasing community level protection earlier
- **This approach maximizes the number of people protected in the shortest possible time**



One dose provides good protection

- First dose of vaccine gives substantial protection within 2-3 weeks
- NACI recommendations to extend dose based on:
 - Review of recent scientific studies of vaccine efficacy & effectiveness
 - Real world effectiveness shows sustained high level of protection after first dose
 - Immunological principles and vaccine science
 - Modelling data from Public Health Agency of Canada that examined different strategies to prevent greatest numbers of symptomatic disease, hospitalizations and deaths.

Vaccine extended dose interval scenario

Scenario

You have 100 people, and 100 doses of vaccine to allocate.

Would you give one dose to all 100 people who would get 80% protection, or two doses to 50 people who would get 90% protection?

Option 1: All staff given 1 dose, with 80% protection



■ Protected (80%) ■ Unprotected (20%)

Option 2: Half of staff given 2 doses, with 90% protection



■ Protected (45%) ■ Unprotected (55%)



Ministry of Health

COVID-19 Vaccination Recommendations for Special Populations

Version 3.0 March 11, 2021

Highlights of changes

- Updated for AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine
- Updated Allergy recommendations
- Updated for confirmation of counselling received
- Updated for Children and Adolescents

This guidance provides basic information only. This document is not intended to provide or take the place of medical advice, diagnosis or treatment, or legal advice.

- Please check the Ministry of Health (MOH) [COVID-19](#) website regularly for updates to this document, mental health resources, and other information.

This document contains recommendations based upon the best current available scientific knowledge for COVID-19 vaccination in special populations and expert clinician advice. Recommendations for specific populations are subject to vaccine prioritization in accordance with [Ontario's COVID-19 Vaccination Plan](#).

Certain populations were not included in the Phase III clinical trials for current COVID-19 vaccines, or had very small representation, and require special consideration for COVID-19 vaccination. Evidence from clinical trial data is limited due to limitations in the size and duration of follow-up of trial populations; however, studies are ongoing. The evidence on COVID-19 disease and vaccines is evolving. For these special populations, it is important that:

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Special Populations

Cancer and COVID-19 vaccination

- Time vaccination few days prior to chemotherapy cycles
- No contraindications for any:
 - Chemotherapy
 - Targeted therapy
 - Immunotherapy
 - Endocrine therapy
 - Radiation therapy



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Cancer and COVID-19 Vaccine Eligibility

All cancer patients **SHOULD** be vaccinated. Although vaccine efficacy may be less in those on active treatment, don't delay. **ANY PROTECTION IS BETTER THAN NONE!**



GO

No contraindications for any:

- chemotherapy
- targeted therapy
- immunotherapy
- endocrine therapy
- radiation therapy

VACCINATE



CAUTION

- <3 months since Rituximab

TALK TO ONCOLOGIST



STOP

- <3-6 months since stem cell transplant
- <3 months since CAR T-cell therapy

- Any of the available COVID-19 vaccines can be used for cancer patients
- Time vaccination a *few days* prior to chemotherapy cycles to maximize chance of response
- Patients on prednisone (or equivalent) ≥ 20 mg/day may be too immunosuppressed to respond to vaccination

Who shouldn't be immunized



- People with proven immediate or anaphylactic hypersensitivity to any component of vaccine or its container, including polyethylene glycol (PEG)
- People with history of anaphylaxis after previous administration to the COVID-19 vaccine:
 - Should be referred to an allergist to determine the cause of the reaction and whether re-immunization can safely proceed.
 - Documentation of the discussion with the allergist-immunologist must be provided to the clinic and include a vaccination care plan, confirming that appropriate counselling on the safe administration of vaccine was provided



Phase 2 health conditions

Highest-risk (442,000 people):

- Organ transplant recipients
- Hematopoietic stem cell transplant recipients
- People with neurological diseases in which respiratory function may be compromised (e.g., motor neuron disease, myasthenia gravis, multiple sclerosis)
- Haematological malignancy diagnosed less than 1 year ago
- Kidney disease eGFR < 30

High-risk (292,000 people):

- Obesity (BMI > 40)
- Other treatments causing immunosuppression (e.g., chemotherapy, immunity-weakening medications)
- Intellectual or developmental disabilities (e.g., Down Syndrome)

At-risk (2.2 million people):

- Immune deficiencies/autoimmune disorders
- Stroke/cerebrovascular disease
- Dementia
- Diabetes
- Liver disease
- All other cancers
- Respiratory diseases
- Spleen problems
- Heart disease
- Hypertension with end organ damage
- Diagnosis of mental disorder
- Substance use disorders
- Sickle Cell Disease
- Thalassemia
- Pregnancy
- Immunocompromising health conditions
- Other disabilities requiring direct support care in the community




For Residents ▾
For Business ▾
The Region ▾

Information for Physicians

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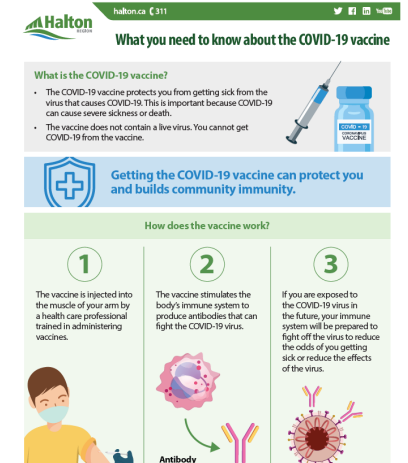
Resources Available

COVID-19 Resources, Directives and
Guidance Documents

Public Health Updates for Halton Physicians
Focus on COVID-19 vaccination



Healthcare professional toolkit



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- [COVID-19 vaccination status](#)
- [Current eligibility in Halton](#)
- [Providing support for COVID-19 immunization](#)
- [Continued education and training](#)
- [COVID-19 vaccine resources](#)


Resources for health care providers

- [COVID-19 Vaccine Resources](#)
Order printed resources, including posters, postcards, fact sheets and more.

[Halton.ca/COVIDvaccines](https://halton.ca/COVIDvaccines)




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HALTON REGION COVID-19 VACCINE PROGRAM

Halton Region Public Health is now offering the COVID-19 vaccine to **Indigenous adults (including First Nation, Métis & Inuit populations)** who live in Halton and are 55 years of age and older.

To book an appointment:



Visit halton.ca/COVIDvaccines



Residents who require booking support can also call 311 and a customer service representative will assist in the booking process.



Looking for information on COVID-19 vaccines?

Here's where you can find up-to-date information:

- On our vaccine program and how vaccines work, visit **halton.ca/COVIDvaccines**
- On provincial vaccine rollout and eligibility criteria, visit **ontario.ca/COVID19**
- On vaccines approved for use in Canada, visit **canada.ca**

Remember to get your information from trusted sources.



Questions?



ME
THANK YOU
THANK YOU
THANK YOU
THANK YOU
THANK YOU
THANK **YOU**
THANK YOU
THANK YOU
STAY 6 FEET AWAY

