

## COVID-19 VACCINE UPDATE #26 FROM HALTON REGION PUBLIC HEALTH

TEL: 905-825-6000 • TOLL FREE: 1-866-442-5866 • FAX: 905-825-1444

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

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

DATE: April 9, 2021

RE: COVID-19 vaccine update 26: expanded vaccine eligibility starting Friday, April 16

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### QUICK FACTS

- Starting Friday, April 16, COVID-19 vaccine eligibility in Halton Region will be expanded to include individuals 18+ with highest-risk and high-risk health conditions and certain caregivers; essential workers 18+ who cannot work from home – Group 1; adults 50+ who live in the L9E postal code in Milton (identified hotspot area); and remaining health care workers who live or work in Halton and cannot work from home.
- Halton continues to follow the [Province's direction on prioritization](#) and Halton Region Public Health does not have the authority to grant exceptions. The availability of appointments will be contingent on vaccine supply.

### STARTING FRIDAY, APRIL 16 COVID-19 VACCINE ELIGIBILITY WILL INCLUDE:

- **Individuals aged 18 and older** with highest-risk and high risk health conditions and certain caregivers
  - *Highest risk includes:* organ transplant recipients; hematopoietic stem cell transplant recipients; and people with neurological diseases in which respiratory function may be compromised (e.g., motor neuron disease, myasthenia gravis, multiple sclerosis); haematological malignancy diagnosed within the past year; or kidney disease
  - *High risk includes:* obesity (BMI over 40); treatments causing immunosuppression (e.g., chemotherapy, immunity-weakening medications); and intellectual or developmental disabilities (e.g., Down Syndrome)
  - *Caregivers:* An essential caregiver is someone providing direct, frequent and sustained in-person personal care and/or assistance with activities of daily living to the individual. Primary essential caregivers are included for individuals in the High-Risk Health Conditions group who require regular and sustained assistance with personal care and/or activities of daily living.
- **Essential workers (aged 18 and older) who cannot work from home – Group 1**
  - elementary/secondary school workers (including educators, custodial, school bus drivers, administrative staff)
  - workers responding to critical events (including police, fire, special constables, children's aid society workers, emergency management, critical infrastructure restoration workers)

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](mailto:DOCTORS@HALTON.CA).

- enforcement, inspection and compliance roles (including by-law enforcement, building inspectors, food inspectors, animal welfare inspectors, border inspection officers, labour inspectors / WSIB field workers)
- individuals working in childcare (including all licensees, employees and students on an educational placement who interact directly with children in licensed child care centres and in authorized recreation and skill building programs. Licensed home child care and in-home service providers, employees of a home child care agency and students on an educational placement)
- foster care agency workers (including customary care providers)
- food manufacturing and distribution workers
- agriculture and farm workers
- funeral, crematorium and cemetery workers
- **Adults 50+ living in the L9E postal code area**
- **Remaining health care workers who live or work in Halton and cannot work from home**

## OVERVIEW OF CURRENT COVID-19 VACCINE ELIGIBILITY

- Adults 55+ can book vaccine appointments through participating pharmacies at [ontario.ca/pharmacycovidvaccine](https://ontario.ca/pharmacycovidvaccine).
- Adults 60+ can book appointments online at [halton.ca/covidvaccines](https://halton.ca/covidvaccines).
- Adults 18+ in First Nations, Métis and Inuit populations and one immediate household family member who is 18 years or older can book online at [halton.ca/covidvaccines](https://halton.ca/covidvaccines).
- Adults receiving chronic home care through the LHIN or home care agency can book online at [halton.ca/covidvaccines](https://halton.ca/covidvaccines).
- Staff and designated essential caregivers at LTCH/RH in Halton who have not yet received their first dose can book online at [halton.ca/covidvaccines](https://halton.ca/covidvaccines).
- Healthcare workers in the [Highest, Very High and High Priority categories](#) who live or work in Halton, providing in-person, non-virtual care at least once a week.

## ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- [Who is currently eligible for COVID-19 vaccination in Halton Region](https://halton.ca/COVIDvaccines), [halton.ca/COVIDvaccines](https://halton.ca/COVIDvaccines)
- [COVID-19 vaccine Frequently Asked Questions in Halton](https://halton.ca/COVIDvaccines), [halton.ca/COVIDvaccines](https://halton.ca/COVIDvaccines)