

May 10, 2021

Dear Health Sector Partners,

The Government of Ontario is adding high-risk healthcare workers to the list of those eligible to receive their second dose of the COVID-19 vaccine earlier than the extended four-month interval.

These eligible healthcare workers will be able to re-schedule their second appointments starting Friday, May 14. Appointments will be scheduled as soon as possible, please note however, that these appointments are not anticipated to be available until later in May or early June.

To change their second dose appointments, eligible individuals will need to call the Middlesex-London Health Unit's COVID-19 Vaccine Booking line at 226-289-3560 and provide verbal attestation that they are eligible for the reduced vaccine dose interval. The Vaccine Booking line is open daily from 8:00 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. The on-line booking system cannot be used to re-schedule an appointment.

Not all healthcare workers will be eligible to receive their second dose at the shorter interval. High-risk healthcare workers who will be eligible for the shortened second-dose interval are:

- All hospital and acute care staff in frontline roles with COVID-19 patients and/or with a high-risk of exposure to COVID-19, including nurses, personal support workers, and those performing aerosol-generating procedures:
 - Critical Care Units
 - Emergency Departments and Urgent Care Departments
 - COVID-19 Medical Units
 - Code Blue Teams, rapid response teams
 - General internal medicine and other specialists involved in the direct care of COVID-19 positive patients

- All patient-facing healthcare workers involved in the COVID-19 response:
 - COVID-19 Specimen Collection Centers (e.g., Assessment centers, community COVID-19 testing locations)
 - Teams supporting outbreak response (e.g., IPAC teams supporting outbreak management, inspectors in the patient environment, redeployed healthcare workers supporting outbreaks or staffing crisis in congregate living settings)
 - COVID-19 vaccine clinics and mobile immunization teams
 - Mobile Testing Teams
 - COVID-19 Isolation Centers
 - COVID-19 Laboratory Services
 - Current members of Ontario's Emergency Medical Assistance Team (EMAT) who may be deployed at any time to support an emergency response

- Medical First Responders
 - ORNGE
 - Paramedics
 - Firefighters providing medical first response as part of their regular duties
 - Police and special constables providing medical first response as part of their regular duties

- Community healthcare workers serving specialized populations including:
 - Needle exchange/syringe programs and supervised consumption and treatment services
 - Indigenous healthcare service providers including but not limited to:
 - Aboriginal Health Access Centers, Indigenous Community Health Centers,
 - Indigenous Interprofessional Primary Care Teams, and Indigenous Nurse Practitioner-Led Clinics

- Long-term care home and retirement-home healthcare workers, including nurses and personal support workers and Essential Caregivers

- Individuals working in Community Health Centers serving disproportionately affected communities and/or communities experiencing highest burden of health, social and economic impacts from COVID-19

- Critical healthcare workers in remote and hard to access communities, e.g., sole practitioner

- Home and community care healthcare workers, including nurses and personal support workers caring for recipients of chronic homecare and seniors in congregate living facilities or providing hands-on care to COVID-19 patients in the community

Thank you for your assistance and partnership.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Alexander T. Summers". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Dr. Alexander Summers, MD, MPH, CCFP, FRCPC
Associate Medical Officer of Health
Middlesex-London Health Unit