



COVID-19 Update

Date: Tuesday, May 18, 2021

To: Everyone at HHS

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Subject: **Update on accelerating the administration of the second dose of the COVID-19 vaccine for Healthcare Workers**

The Province recently announced its [decision to add high-risk health care workers](#) (HCW) to the list of those eligible to receive their second dose of the COVID-19 vaccine earlier than the extended four-month interval. HHS welcomes this development and is working with its partners toward a smooth and rapid implementation.

What's new

Individuals who qualify for the shortened second dose interval will receive, by end of day on Thursday, May 20th, a notification via text message and/or email with a new appointment date.

This applies to all hospital and acute care staff in frontline roles caring for COVID-19 patients, and staff and physicians with a high-risk of exposure to COVID-19, including nurses and personal support workers and those performing aerosol-generating procedures. This includes:

- Critical Care Units/ICUs
- Emergency 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

- COVID-19 Laboratory Services (HRMLP virology lab)
- COVID-19 Specimen Collection Centers (e.g., Assessment centers)
- Teams supporting outbreak response (e.g., IPAC teams supporting outbreak management, employee health specialists, inspectors in the patient environment, redeployed health care workers supporting outbreaks or staffing crisis in congregate living settings)
- COVID-19 vaccine clinics and mobile immunization teams.

What this means for hospital HCWs

- **Eligible individuals** who did not previously provide contact information and those who do not get a notification by end of day on Thursday May 20, can call, **starting Friday May 21**, the City of Hamilton's Public Health COVID-19 hotline at 905-974-9848, **option 7, then option 1**, to schedule an appointment to receive their second dose sooner than the four month interval.
- Because of high volumes at vaccination clinics, HCW should attend the appointments on the dates/times given.
- Any individuals who wish to adjust their new appointment date/time provided to a later date can do so by calling the City of Hamilton's Public Health COVID-19 hotline at 905-974-9848, **option 7, then option 1**.
- **NOTE: all rescheduled vaccination dates resulting from this change will take place at the First Ontario Centre Clinic at 101 York Boulevard, Hamilton.**

We encourage HCWs who haven't yet registered for and received a vaccine, to register via the [provincial tool](#) or their own public health unit process (where applicable) to receive the vaccine. Vaccination continues to be a critical tool to reduce the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic: including on the hospital and health care system.

We ask everyone to remain vigilant in protecting themselves and others by wearing a mask, remembering proper hand hygiene and practicing physical distancing.

Dave, Leslie and Bruce