

RCD COVID-19 Vaccine Communications Committee

For Immediate Release

(Pembroke, Ontario, 11:45 a.m., April 8, 2021)

Residents with Certain High-Risk Health Conditions Now Eligible For COVID-19 Vaccinations

Based on the provincial prioritization guidelines for vaccination of people with health conditions, residents with the following high-risk health conditions **are now eligible** to receive their COVID-19 vaccination. If you have any of the following conditions, please book a vaccination appointment at any of the available sites within Renfrew County and District (RCD):

- Organ transplant recipients
- Stem cell transplant recipients
- Neurological diseases in which breathing function may be impacted (e.g., motor neuron disease, myasthenia gravis, multiple sclerosis, ALS, acquired brain injury)
- Haematological malignancy (acute lymphocytic (ALL), chronic lymphocytic (CLL), acute myeloid (AML), chronic myeloid (CML)), myeloma, and lymphoma (Hodgkin's and non-Hodgkin's (NHL))
- Kidney disease eGFR < 30
- Obesity (BMI > 40)
- Treatments causing immunosuppression (e.g., chemotherapy, immunity-weakening medications such as long-term steroid treatment rheumatoid arthritis, lupus)
- Intellectual or developmental disabilities (e.g., Down Syndrome)

If you are unsure if you qualify based on this list, speak to your primary care provider or specialist.

One essential caregiver per person with the above conditions will also now be considered eligible to be vaccinated and can book a vaccination appointment. **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.**

We are asking residents to please register online when possible as this is the fastest way. Individuals are encouraged to ask a family member or friend to assist if they are unable to book online themselves. If a person is unable to register online, they can call RCDHU at 613-735-9724 or 1-800-267-1097, Ext. 200. Residents are asked to only leave one message with their name and phone number and someone will return their call as soon as possible.

The health unit is also asking that residents only call the COVID-19 Booking/Registration number for booking/registering appointments. Do not call the booking/registration line for questions about eligibility, what you should bring for an appointment, etc. For all other inquiries

regarding COVID-19 and vaccine rollout, residents should visit [RCDHU's website](#). For details specific to vaccination registration and appointments (i.e., what you need to bring), visit the [COVID-19 Vaccination Appointment Checklist](#).

Please note that **all vaccinations currently taking place are for those receiving their first dose only**. All second doses, except for a minority of classifications will be administered 16 weeks after the first. Information about the notification and booking process for second doses is still being developed but will be rolled out as soon as a process is in place. We appreciate your patience.

For more information, visit RCDHU's website at <https://www.rcdhu.com/novel-coronavirus-covid-19-2/> or call 613-732-3629 or 1-800-267-1097.

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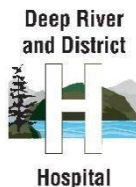
Committee Spokesperson: Carolyn Levesque

Public Affairs and Communications Coordinator

Pembroke Regional Hospital

(613) 732-3675, extension 6165

Carolyn.levesque@prh.email



Arnprior & District
Family Health Team