

COVID-19 VACCINE NEWS BRIEF

MAY 12, 2021 | EDITION 12

Local Update

As of May 9, a total of **42,467 doses** of the COVID-19 vaccine have been administered through one of several COVID-19 vaccination clinics across Renfrew County and District (RCD) with 45% of RCDHU adults (aged 18+) having received at least one dose.

Renfrew County and District Health Unit (RCDHU) continues to expand COVID-19 vaccination appointments in-line with provincial eligibility groups. As a result, eligibility has expanded to individuals with certain at-risk health conditions, and group two of people who cannot work from home. **Effective May 13**, eligibility will further expand to include residents in the general population born between 1972 and 1981 (40 to 49 years of age).

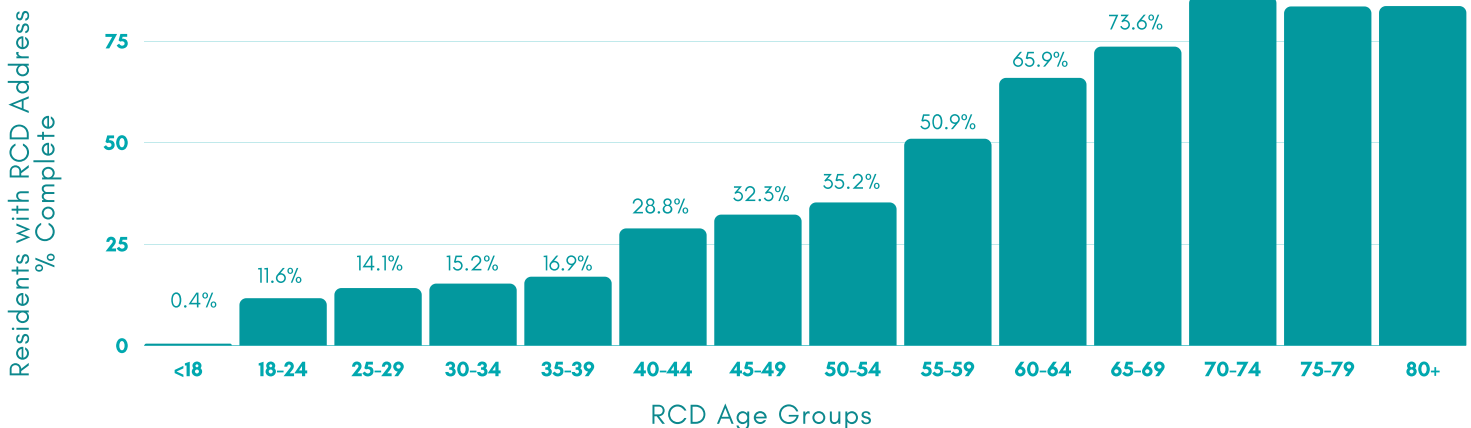
Note: Eligibility expansion will result in longer wait times for appointments. **Please be patient.**



- Annprior drive-through clinic held at the Nick Smith Centre

Percentage of RCD residents that have received at least one dose of the COVID-19 vaccine, by age groups

As of May 9, 2021



Note: Total includes doses administered at clinics organized by RCDHU, pharmacies in RCD, and primary care.

First Dose Booking Information

1. An online, centralized, vaccine booking system referred to as the Renfrew County and District COVID-19 Vaccine Registration System, is live for residents to access. **Individuals who are currently eligible for vaccination can book a vaccination appointment at either link: www.rcdhu.com OR Ontario.ca/bookvaccine.** Both sites use the local RCD booking system. Booking an appointment online 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 extension 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.

2. RCDHU asks that residents **only call the COVID-19 Booking/Registration number for booking and registering appointments.** Please 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 call RCDHU at 613-732-3629 or 1-800-267-1097, ext. 977. For details on what to bring to your appointment, visit the [COVID-19 Vaccination Appointment Checklist](#).

3. PLEASE BE PATIENT. The availability of vaccination appointments will be based on the number of vaccine doses that RCD receives each week, which varies by each public health region based on the provincial government's perceived level of risk in those areas. Because of this, people should anticipate that it will take a number of weeks for everyone in the new groupings to be able to book and receive their vaccinations.

Second Dose Highlights

➡ Notification has begun for those individuals who do not already have their [second dose appointments](#), and this will continue throughout this week. Appointments will be sent to the email address that individuals provided at the vaccination clinic. For individuals who did not provide an email at the vaccination site, RCDHU call centre personnel, as well as community partners, will begin calling to schedule a second dose appointment. **Please be patient. We ask that you do not call RCDHU to book your second appointment, as this doubles the work and increases risk of error.** (Note: Only if you have received your first dose 12 weeks ago and have not yet been scheduled for a second dose appointment, please contact RCDHU.)

➡ **We ask that you only cancel your appointment if absolutely necessary.** Due to vaccine demand and limitations, we would discourage cancellations or change requests unless necessary. If you must reschedule, call 613-732-3629 ext. 202 or 1-800-267-1097 ext. 202 and leave one message with your request to cancel this appointment. After your request has been received, you will be added to a waitlist until we have availability for you to be rescheduled.

➡ **If you received your first dose in Ontario but outside of Renfrew County and District, you should receive your second dose at the same location.** You must contact the public health unit in that region to book your second dose appointment (e.g., if you travelled to Kingston, you must contact KFL&A Public Health). If this is absolutely not possible because you have moved, you can call RCDHU at 613-732-3629 or 1-800-267-1097 Ext 201 to book a second dose appointment.

➡ **All second dose appointments will be booked in the same location where you received your first dose** (e.g., you received your first dose at the Pembroke Memorial Centre (PMC), your second dose will also be scheduled for the PMC). This is the most efficient and timely way for RCDHU to book second doses as we are working with an automated system that comes with limitations and large volumes of people.

➡ In regards to **mixing different vaccines between first and second doses**, RCDHU is currently waiting on guidance from the provincial government who have requested that the National Advisory Committee on Immunization make a recommendation by mid-May. RCDHU will notify residents when this information becomes available.

➡ People should contact their primary care provider if they have questions about their eligibility and/or personal health status before they receive the vaccine. Those without a primary care provider can contact the Renfrew County Virtual Triage and Assessment Centre (VTAC) (1-844-727-6404) to consult with a family physician.

COVID-19 VACCINE ELIGIBILITY

Current as of May 12, 2021



Vaccine clinic dates and times are only available based on vaccine supply.
Local eligibility may differ from provincial announcements based on vaccine supply.

WHO IS CURRENTLY ELIGIBLE TO BOOK AN APPOINTMENT?



- **Second Group of people who cannot work from home:** Essential and critical retail workers (including grocery, foodbank, pharmacy, ServiceOntario, ServiceCanada, Postal Service, Passport Canada, wholesalers and general goods, restaurant, LCBO workers), Workers in manufacturing industries directly involved in supporting the COVID-19 response, construction (including infrastructure) and other essential businesses and services where facilities are at heightened risk for COVID-19 outbreaks and spread, Social workers and social services staff who provide in-person client services (including youth justice workers, Ontario Works and Ontario Disability Support Program case workers), Courts and justice system workers (including probation and parole workers), Transportation, warehousing and distribution workers (including public transit workers, truck drivers supporting essential services, marine and rail cargo and maintenance, highway maintenance), Electricity (including system operations, generation, transmission, distribution and storage workers), Communications infrastructure workers (including cellular, satellite, landline, internet, public safety radio), Water and wastewater management workers, Financial services workers (bank branch staff), Veterinarians and veterinary teams, Waste management workers, Oil and petroleum workers (including petroleum refineries, crude oil and petroleum storage, transmission and distribution, retail sale of fuel), Natural gas and propane gas workers (including compression, storage, transmission and distribution of natural gas and propane), Mine workers (including those needed to ensure the continued operation of active mines), and Uranium processing workers (those working in the refining and conversion of uranium and fabrication of fuel for nuclear power plants).
- Residents with the following at-risk health conditions (this list is not exhaustive): Immune deficiencies and autoimmune disorders, Stroke and cerebrovascular disease, Dementia, Diabetes, Liver disease, All other cancers, Respiratory diseases, such as asthma, bronchitis, pneumonia, pleurisy, Spleen problems, such as asplenia, Heart disease, Hypertension with end organ damage, Diagnosed mental disorder, Substance use disorders, Sickle cell disease, Thalassaemia, Immunocompromising health conditions, and Other disabilities requiring direct support care in the community.
- People born in 1971 or earlier (50 years of age and older).
- **As of May 13:** People born in 1981 or earlier (40 years of age and older).



For a complete list of all eligible groupings, please [click here](#).

PLEASE NOTE: At this time there is no longer pre-registration for appointments.

To book an appointment or find the latest COVID-19 vaccine information visit
www.rcdhu.com

Good News Spotlight!

“ To all RCDHU officials and staff,

My husband and I received our COVID-19 vaccination today. What a tremendously well organized experience! Congrats to all involved and especially the organizers. WELL DONE! I have sent an email to Premier Ford today, to show my pride in our county health unit. I feel like they have been at the forefront of this pandemic since the beginning. Thanks again!

”

- Resident of RCD



Transportation Assistance



Assistance with transportation to COVID-19 vaccination appointments is available for seniors and adults with a disability who have no available transportation options. If you have any questions regarding transportation, please feel to call **1-833-617-4357 (HELP)**. You must have a vaccine appointment already booked to request transportation.

Please note: **You cannot book same day or next day drives.** At least **48 hours advance notice** of your appointment is required to book transportation. More information available at: <https://communitysupport.covidresponse.ca/>

Provincial Update

As of Tuesday, May 11, 2021 at 8:00 a.m., individuals with [at-risk health conditions](#) such as dementia, diabetes and sickle cell disease, as well as [Group Two](#) of people who cannot work from home including grocery store, restaurant and transportation workers became eligible to book an appointment to receive the first dose of the COVID-19 vaccine.

In addition, effective Thursday, May 13, 2021, at 8:00 a.m., individuals turning 40 and over in 2021 in non-hot spot communities will also be eligible to book an appointment to receive the COVID-19 vaccine at a mass immunization clinic. Eligible individuals can schedule an appointment through the provincial booking system, or directly through public health units that use their own booking system. This builds upon the eligibility of those aged 18 and over in hot spot areas and is aligned with [the rollout](#) announced on May 2, 2021. For full details visit: [Ontario Continues to Expand Booking Eligibility for COVID-19 Vaccines to More Ontarians.](#)

The province has expanded use of the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines to [pharmacies in hot spot areas](#). Nearly 80 pharmacy locations are offering the Pfizer vaccine in Toronto and Peel, and up to 60 pharmacies are offering the Moderna vaccine in Durham, Hamilton, Ottawa, Windsor-Essex and York regions to individuals aged 18 and over. Further expansion of pharmacy locations offering COVID-19 vaccines will continue through May.

In addition, due to increased vaccine supply the province is adding high-risk health care workers, dialysis patients, and Indigenous populations to the [list of those eligible to book their appointment](#) to receive a second dose of the COVID-19 vaccine earlier than the extended four-month interval. These groups face a greater risk of contracting and suffering serious illness from COVID-19. **Note: RCDHU is waiting for more information on high-risk healthcare workers regarding second dose bookings.**

Ontarians who are now eligible to book their vaccine appointment are asked to be patient, as it could take time for them to receive an appointment. Vaccine administration rates are based on supply of vaccines from the federal government, local context and may differ as vaccine supply is delivered across the province. For more information on local vaccine rollout, individuals are encouraged to contact their local public health unit.

As of May 11, Ontario will be pausing the rollout and administration of first doses of the AstraZeneca vaccine at this time. Please [click here](#) for more information.

Federal Update

On May 5, 2021, Health Canada authorized the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine for use in children 12 to 15 years of age. NACI will be issuing updated guidance in the coming weeks. Until then, the term 'authorized age group' refers to individuals 16 years of age and over for the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine. Full details at: [National Advisory Committee on Immunization \(NACI\): Statements and publications.](#)



RCD Useful Links

RECENT MEDIA RELEASES:

- [COVID-19 Vaccine Appointment Eligibility Expanding to Include New Groups \(May 11\)](#)
- [COVID-19 Vaccine Appointment Eligibility Expanding to Include New Groups \(May 05\)](#)
- [Update Regarding Second Dose COVID-19 Vaccine Appointments \(May 04\)](#)

COVID-19 VACCINE NEWS BRIEF:

- [Edition 11: May 5, 2021](#)
- [Edition 10: April 28, 2021](#)
- [Edition 9: April 21, 2021](#)

ADDITIONAL:

- [Video: RCD COVID-19 Vaccination Clinic Walk-Through](#)
- [COVID-19 Vaccine Frequently Asked Questions](#)
- [COVID-19 Vaccination Screening and Consent Form](#)

Partner Websites

