

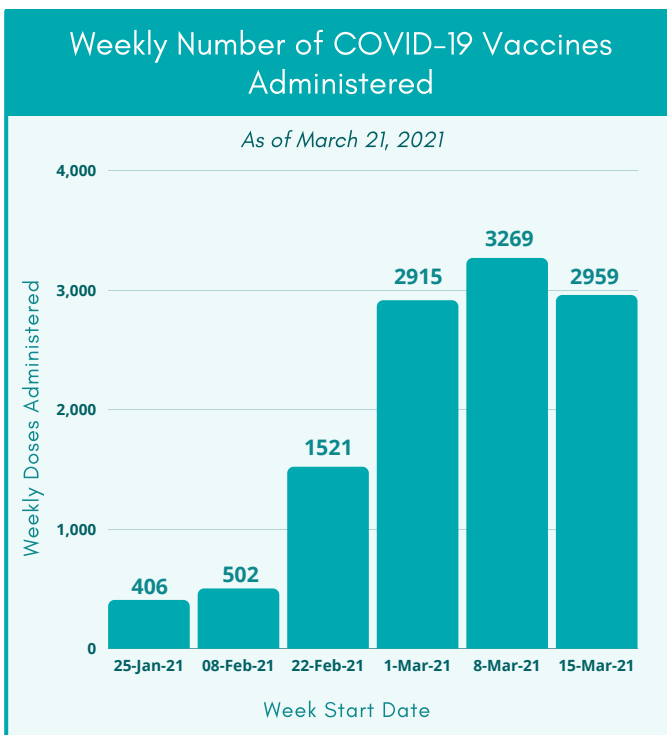
# COVID-19 VACCINE NEWS BRIEF

MARCH 24, 2021 | EDITION 5



## Local Update

As of March 21, 2021, a total of **11,572 doses** of the COVID-19 vaccine have been administered through one of several COVID-19 vaccination clinics across Renfrew County and District.



As Renfrew County and District (RCD) continues to receive weekly shipments of the COVID-19 vaccine, the list of those eligible to register for vaccination appointments has now expanded to include everyone in the next priority groups as outlined by the provincial government.

### A) Eligible people who can register and book appointment based on availability of vaccine:

- All seniors in congregate care residences (who will be vaccinated in-home by mobile vaccination teams).
- Long-term care and retirement home essential caregivers.
- Indigenous residents (on or off reserve) who are born in 2003 or earlier (18 years of age and older).
- People born in 1941 or earlier (80 years of age and older).
- All health care workers.
- Anyone receiving chronic home care that have been identified by home health care organizations. This group will receive a call notifying them that they are eligible and should book an appointment after receiving this call.

**Note: All those previously identified as eligible will remain eligible and able to book an appointment.**

**B) Eligible people who can currently register for a vaccination appointment, but are not able to book a vaccination appointment at this time:**

- 1. Residents in the general population born between 1942 and 1946 (75 to 79 years of age)**
- 2. Faith based leaders, who as part of their regular role, are at increased risk of exposure to COVID-19 through close contact with persons and families in the following circumstances:**
  - End of life care
  - Care of the deceased, funerals, bathing, or other ceremony with direct contact with deceased persons
  - Home visits to unwell persons

- Pastoral care in hospitals/LTC/RHs or other vulnerable settings

In order to ensure those most vulnerable are prioritized, RCD residents 75 to 79 years of age (born in the years 1942 to 1946) will be **able to register but will be unable to book an appointment** until the previous priority groups are close to completion. Public messaging regarding booking appointments for this group will follow when appropriate and will begin soon. However, residents on the 75 to 79 years of age registration list may receive calls offering vaccination if extra doses are available at clinics.

For details specific to vaccination registration and appointments (i.e., what you need to bring), visit the [COVID-19 Vaccination Appointment Checklist](#).

## 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/>

## Good News Spotlight!

**“** *As a senior in the 80+ group attending the clinic in Renfrew, I was very impressed with my experience! It was very well run from start to finish. Staff were informative and friendly, meeting me at the door right when I walked in. They directed me where to go at each step. Everything was so well marked, like following the yellow brick road. I even saw some familiar faces!*

*I was in and out quickly and was very pleased.  
**Thank you to all those involved!***

- Evelyn Campbell, Resident of Renfrew County and District

**”**



# Highlights

**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](http://www.rcdhu.com) OR

[Ontario.ca/bookvaccine](http://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.** **Individuals turning 75 or older in 2021 (born in 1946 or earlier)** will be eligible to **register** for a vaccination appointment, but **are not able to book** a vaccination appointment at this time. **Once appointments become available**, those who registered online will receive a link to book an appointment. Those who registered by phone will receive a phone call so that an appointment can be booked.

**3.** **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.

**4. PLEASE BE PATIENT**



Please note that 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.

**5.** Information on timelines and vaccine rollout will continue to be communicated as it becomes available. Please also be reminded that dates and timelines are subject to change which is why it is important that everyone monitor the communication channels regularly.

**6.** **Priority/eligible groups will be notified through various multi-media channels** including public service announcements, that they are eligible to receive the vaccine. Please note that this does not mean that individuals will receive a direct phone call or email. It will be announced at a broader level and it is the responsibility of individuals to access that information and book appointments through appropriate channels. Please note: At this time, essential caregivers are only eligible if they care for individuals that are in long-term care or retirement homes.



- Arnprior Vaccine Clinic - Nick Smith  
Centre - Priscila Penha receives vaccine



# Provincial Update

On Monday, March 22, the Ontario Government announced that they are expanding COVID-19 vaccination appointments through their online booking system to individuals aged 75 and over. Since the launch of the provincial **online booking tool and call centre** on March 15, more than 239,000 vaccination appointments have been scheduled.

On March 16, 2021, the National Advisory Committee on Immunization (NACI) expanded its recommendation for the use of the AstraZeneca/COVISHIELD vaccine to people 18 years old and older. In alignment with NACI's latest recommendation and **Ontario's Ethical Framework**, participating pharmacies and primary care settings will offer vaccination appointments to individuals aged 60 and over. Eligible Ontarians can contact a participating pharmacy directly to make an appointment. In addition, many primary care providers are directly contacting eligible patients to book an appointment.

Vaccinations with the AstraZeneca/COVISHIELD **vaccine at pharmacies require an appointment** to be made in advance. Eligible adults aged 60 and over (if 60 or older as of the day of vaccination or, if will be 60 or older in 2021) who are interested in booking an appointment, can visit **ontario.ca/pharmacycovidvaccine** to find a participating pharmacy and can contact the pharmacy to make an appointment.

Vaccinations with the AstraZeneca/COVISHIELD vaccine at primary care settings are part of a limited rollout according to available supply and are not taking appointments by request. **Do not call your primary care providers to book an appointment** – participating primary care providers in select areas are reaching out to eligible Ontarians aged 60 and older.

## Extension of Second Dose Interval

March 10th, 2021, the Ontario Government accepted and started following the National Advisory Committee on Immunization (NACI) recommendation that with the current COVID-19 vaccine supply, jurisdictions should maximize the number of individuals benefiting from the protection provided by vaccines by extending the timeline for the second dose of vaccine up to four months after the first dose, with some limited exceptions. The rationale for this extension includes: more people protected, and one dose provides good protection. For more information visit: **NACI rapid response: Extended dose intervals for COVID-19 vaccines to optimize early vaccine rollout and population protection in Canada.**

## RCD Useful Links

### Recent Media Releases:

- > Vaccination Rollout Expands to Next Priority Groups (March 22, 2021)
- > Those Booking Vaccination Appointments Will Be Asked to Validate Eligibility (March 12, 2021)
- > Vaccination Rollout Expands to Next Priority Groups (March 10, 2021)

### COVID-19 Vaccine News Brief:

- > Edition 4: March 17, 2021
- > Edition 3: March 10, 2021
- > Edition 2: March 2, 2021
- > Edition 1: February 19, 2021

### Partner Websites

