

COVID-19 VACCINE NEWS BRIEF

MARCH 30, 2021 | EDITION 6



- Doreen Joyce receives vaccine from Jenny Hickson, RN, March 2021

Local Update

As of March 28, 2021, a total of **14,127 doses** of the COVID-19 vaccine have been administered through one of several COVID-19 vaccination clinics across Renfrew County and District (RCD).

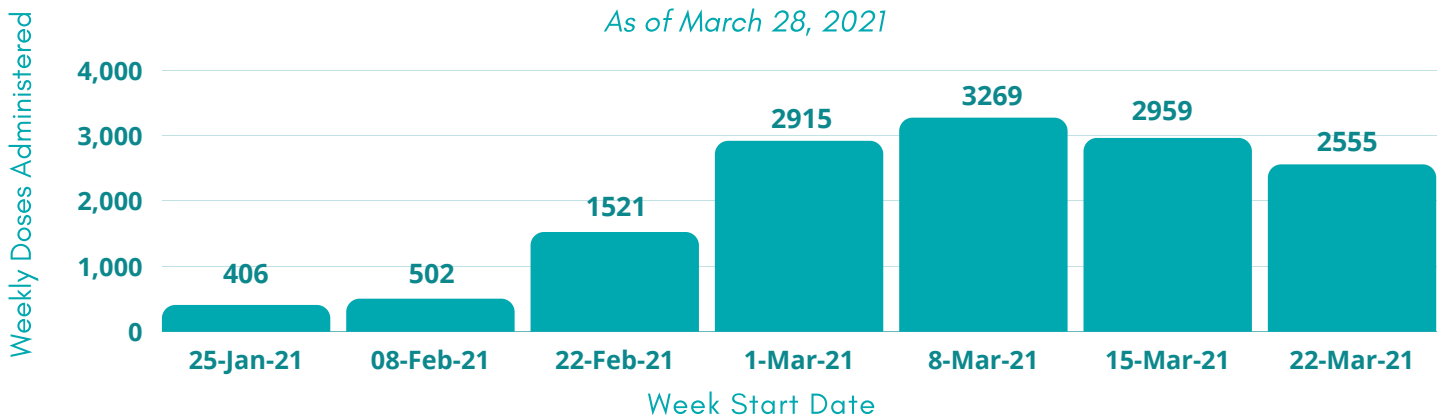
Approximately 81% of residents 80 years of age and over have been vaccinated with first doses. Individuals **75 years of age and older (born in 1946 or earlier)** are now eligible for

vaccination in RCD, and Renfrew County and District Health Unit (RCDHU) has began booking this week. This means RCD is entering **Phase 2** of the RCD Vaccine Administration and Distribution Plan (VDAP).

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

Weekly Number of COVID-19 Vaccines Administered

As of March 28, 2021



After tremendous uptake for COVID-19 vaccination in the 80+ population, the list of those eligible to register for vaccination appointments now expands based on two categories:

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

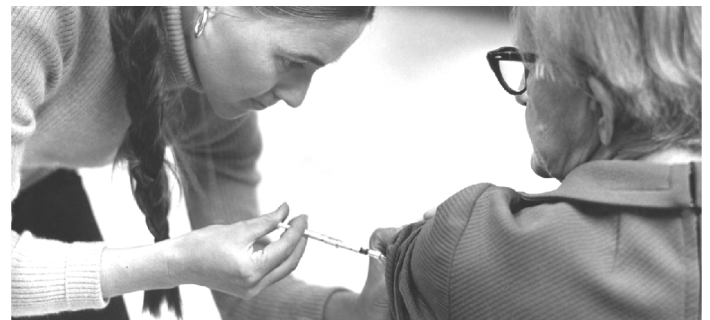
1. People 75 years of age and older (born in 1946 or earlier).
2. All residents and staff of congregate living residences.
3. Faith based leaders who as part of their regular roles are at increased risk of exposure to COVID-19 through close contact with persons and families in the following circumstances:
 - End of life care
 - Pastoral care in hospitals/LTC/RHs or other vulnerable settings
 - Care of the deceased, funerals, bathing, or other ceremony with direct contact with deceased persons
 - Home visits to unwell persons
4. Long-term care and retirement home essential caregivers.
5. Indigenous residents (on or off reserve) 18 years of age and older.
6. All health care workers.
7. 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 after receiving this call.

i Registration and booking means that you are eligible to sign up **and** receive a vaccination 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 1947 and 1951 (70 to 74 years of age).

i Register only, means that you **cannot book appointments at this time**. Registering ensures that residents are readily available should RCDHU receive extra vaccine, and so that staff can plan and prepare for upcoming vaccination clinics. Residents on the 70 to 74 years of age registration only 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/>

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 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 is 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 call RCDHU at 613-732-3629 or 1-800-267-1097, extension 977. For details specific to vaccination registration and appointments (i.e., what you need to bring), visit the COVID-19 Vaccination Appointment Checklist.

3. **Individuals turning 70 or older in 2021 (born in 1951 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.

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. 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.

6. 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.

7. 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.

Good News Spotlight!

“Congratulations to those responsible for the organization of the COVID-19 vaccination clinic in **Barry's Bay**. Both my wife and I have received our first inoculations at the site and we were pleasantly surprised to experience how smoothly the process went.

There was hardly a wait for admission and things moved efficiently through the procedure. Also, the staff at the site were well prepared and efficient. After seeing the inefficiencies in larger centres, it makes one appreciate the efforts made and the consideration given to seniors in our area. We (almost) look forward to getting the second 'jab'. **Well done!**

”

- Resident of Renfrew County and District



Provincial Update

On Sunday, March 28, the Ontario Government announced that they are expanding COVID-19 vaccination appointments through their online booking system to individuals aged 70 and over in some regions. The provincial government states that “As vaccine supply is delivered across the province and additional public health units begin vaccinating individuals aged 70 and over, **vaccine administration rates may differ based on local context. Rollout and timing has been further impacted by the latest delay in shipment of the Moderna vaccine, initially planned for March 30 but now delayed until April 7.** For more information on local vaccine rollout, individuals are encouraged to contact their local public health unit.” Full details at: <https://bit.ly/3cwhbFW>.

Ontario received 194,500 doses of the AstraZeneca vaccine. This first allocation of AstraZeneca vaccine was available through 327 retail pharmacies in 3 regions; Toronto, Windsor-Essex, and Kingston (165,000 doses), and primary care settings across 6 public health unit (PHU) regions (29,500 doses). The province continues to expand the delivery channels, with approximately 1,500 by the end of April. PHU regions were selected based on need, infection rates and partnerships with primary care.

On March 30, 2021, the provincial government announced that Ontario will not be using the AstraZeneca vaccine for individuals under 55 years of age, while the data are being reviewed by Health Canada. This is in alignment with the National Advisory Committee on Immunization's (NACI) recommendations for the AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine released March 29, 2021. Full details at: <https://bit.ly/3cysaOZ>. Participating pharmacies and primary care settings will offer vaccination appointments to individuals aged 60 and over.

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.

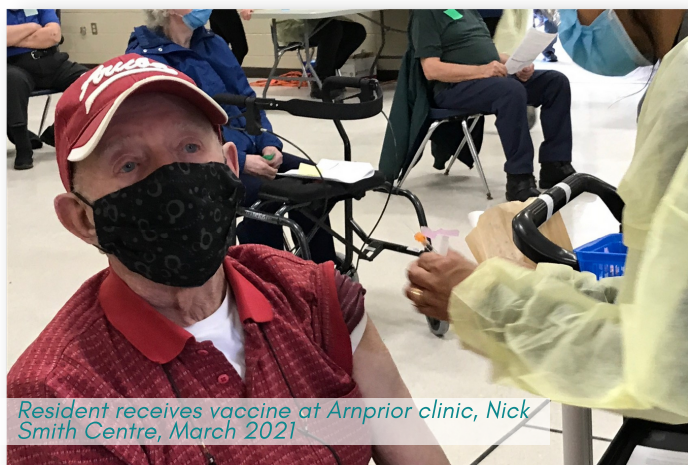
Federal Update

Health Canada recently issued the following statement for healthcare professionals and vaccine recipients, “A combination of thrombosis and thrombocytopenia, in some cases accompanied by bleeding, has been observed very rarely following vaccination with the AstraZeneca COVID-19 Vaccine.” However, Health Canada states that the benefits of the AstraZeneca/COVISHIELD COVID-19 Vaccines continue to outweigh the risks.



On March 29, 2021, the National Advisory Committee on Immunization (NACI) recommended that the AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine not be used in adults under 55 years of age at this time while the safety of Vaccine-Induced Prothrombotic Immune Thrombocytopenia (VIPIT) following vaccination with AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine is investigated further. Full details, [click here](#).

For further guidance for healthcare professionals and vaccine recipients include, [click here](#). To view the full statement, [click here](#).



Resident receives vaccine at Arnprior clinic, Nick Smith Centre, March 2021



Staff at Deep River vaccination clinic. From left: Michelle Carlin, Jenny Hickson, Helen Esilman

RCD Useful Links



RECENT MEDIA RELEASES:

- COVID-19 Vaccination Appointments Now Open to Seniors 75 Years of Age and Older (March 29, 2021)
- 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 5: March 28, 2021
- Edition 4: March 17, 2021
- Edition 3: March 10, 2021
- Edition 2: March 2, 2021
- Edition 1: February 19, 2021

Partner Websites

