

COVID-19 VACCINE NEWS BRIEF

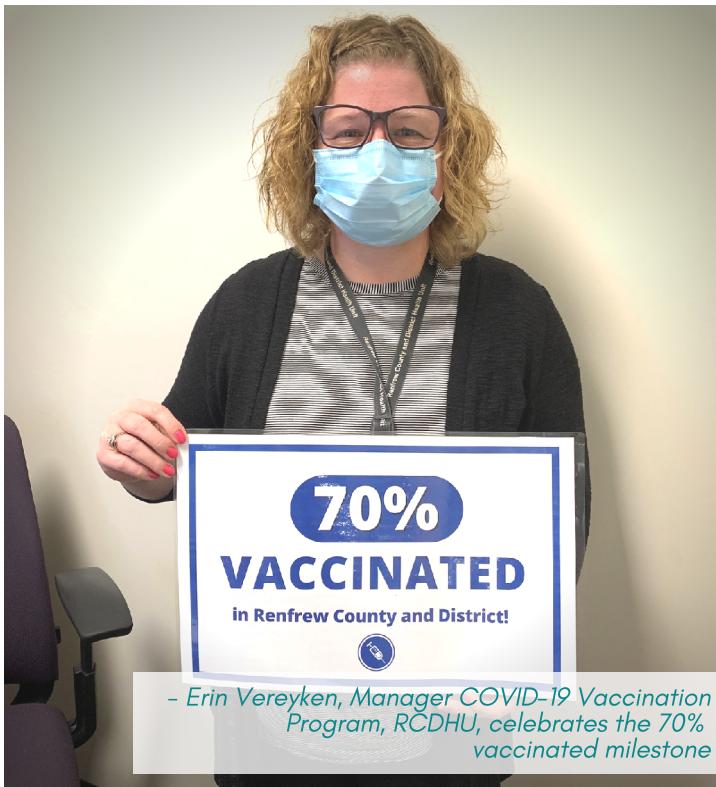
JUNE 23, 2021 | EDITION 18

Local Update

As of June 21, a total of **82,722 doses** of the COVID-19 vaccine have been administered through one of several COVID-19 vaccination clinics across Renfrew County and District (RCD) with **70.5%** of RCD residents (aged 18+) having received at least one dose.

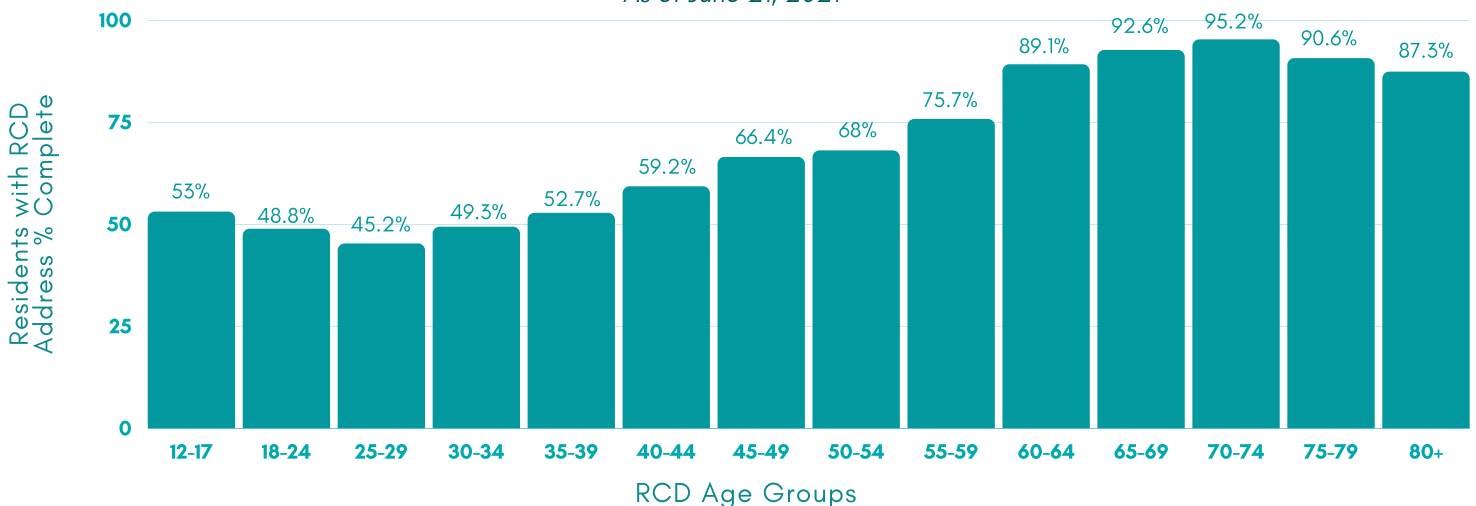
Remember: Even if you have been vaccinated, it is important to continue following public health measures, such as physical distancing, wearing a mask and hand hygiene.

RCDHU announced that in alignment with the province, eligibility to book an early second dose appointment is as follows:



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

As of June 21, 2021



Note: Total includes doses administered at clinics organized by RCDHU, pharmacies in RCD, and primary care. Total does not include doses that have been administered to Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) members that reside in RCD.

- As of Monday, June 21, 2021 at 8:00 a.m., all Ontarians who received their first dose of an mRNA COVID-19 vaccine on or before May 9, 2021 will be eligible to book or rebook their second dose appointment at a shortened interval.
- As of Monday, June 28, 2021 at 8:00 a.m., all Ontarians aged 18 and over who have received their first dose of an mRNA COVID-19 vaccine will be eligible to book their second dose appointment. Residents will be eligible to book a second dose appointment no earlier than 28 days after the first dose, per the recommended interval.

Additionally, eligibility for the [COVID-19 Vaccine Weekly Extra Dose Sign-Up List](#) is expanding to include:

- All individuals 18 years of age older.

Full details at: [Eligibility for Early Second Dose Expands](#).

Youth Corner (ages 12-17)



This is a reminder that youth 12 to 17 years of age are eligible to book their COVID-19 vaccination appointment for the **Pfizer** COVID-19 vaccine ONLY, as this is currently the only COVID-19 vaccine that has been authorized by Health Canada for use in youth.

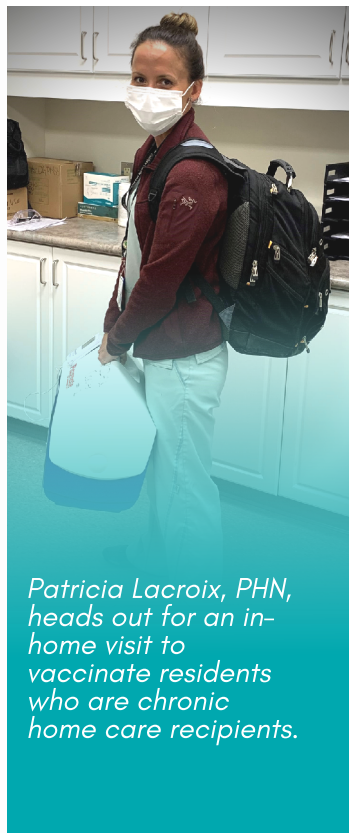
For more information visit:

- [COVID-19 Vaccine Youth \(Ages 12-17\) Information](#)
- [What Youth Need to Know About their Appointment](#)
- [COVID-19 Vaccine Youth \(Age 12-17\) Consent Form](#)
- [COVID-19 Vaccine Information Sheet](#)

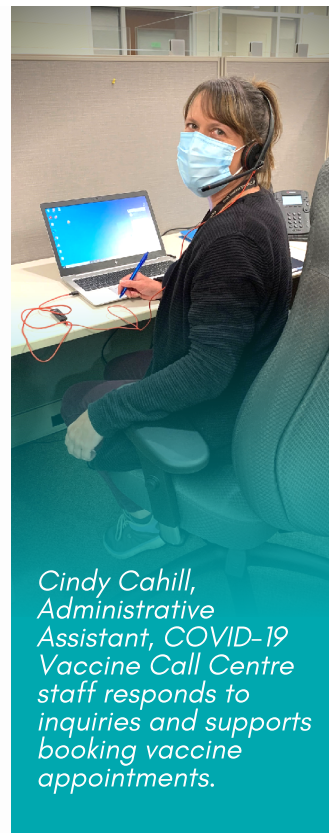
BEHIND THE SCENES



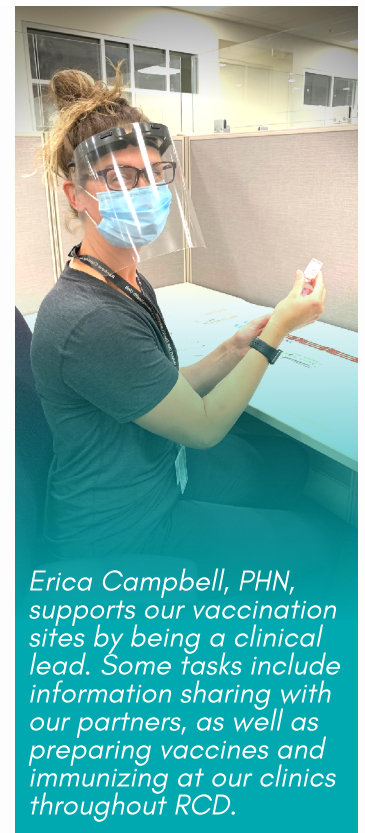
A look at the staff at work at **Renfrew County and District Health Unit**. These roles are **vital** to the COVID-19 Vaccine Rollout across RCD.



Patricia Lacroix, PHN, heads out for an in-home visit to vaccinate residents who are chronic home care recipients.



Cindy Cahill, Administrative Assistant, COVID-19 Vaccine Call Centre staff responds to inquiries and supports booking vaccine appointments.



Erica Campbell, PHN, supports our vaccination sites by being a clinical lead. Some tasks include information sharing with our partners, as well as preparing vaccines and immunizing at our clinics throughout RCD.

First Dose Booking Information

1. Individuals can book a vaccination appointment at either link: www.rcdhu.com OR Ontario.ca/bookvaccine.

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 613-732-9724 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. 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.

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. For more information please call **1-833-617-4357 (HELP)** or visit <https://communitysupport.covidresponse.ca/>.

First Dose Eligibility List



All residents aged **12 and older** are now eligible to book a first dose appointment for vaccination (must be 12 years of age as of the date of vaccination)

**All those previously eligible will remain eligible for vaccination.*

Vaccine clinic dates and times are only available based on vaccine supply.



Eligibility expansion will result in **longer wait times** for appointments. Please be patient as you wait for appointments to become available.

Weekly Extra Dose Sign Up List



Residents 12 years of age and older who have been unable to book a first dose vaccine appointment or for those eligible to receive an earlier second dose appointment can add their name to a weekly list, which will allow residents to be called for last minute or same day appointments that open at various clinics across RCD.

To add your name to the Weekly Extra Dose Sign-Up List, click <https://bit.ly/3wFWMVY> or visit www.rcdhu.com and click on the COVID-19 Vaccine Rollout webpage and scroll down to the link for the Weekly Extra Dose Sign-Up List. **The Extra Dose Sign-Up List is not in place of booking an appointment and everyone should continue to book appointments as they become available.** Full details at: [New Weekly Extra Dose Sign-Up List Developed](#).



- Abby and Austin Knight receive "stress balls" from RVH Vaccination Clinic staff Alyssa Vandekemp at registration, Renfrew Youth Clinic

Second Dose Highlights



Due to increased vaccine supply and shortened second dose intervals, we urge residents to book an **early second dose appointment as soon as possible**, as locally, we are anticipating cancelling all previously scheduled appointments on or after July 18th.

As of June 28, 2021: Early second dose appointments are available for anyone who is 18 years of age or older who received an mRNA vaccine (Pfizer or Moderna) **at least 28 days ago**, or those who have received an AstraZeneca vaccine **at least 8 weeks ago**.



You cannot book your second dose appointment at this time unless you are currently eligible for an early second dose appointment.



Click [here](#) for instructions on cancelling a previously booked appointment.



It is safe and effective to get any mRNA vaccine as your second dose.



Review the [Your Second Dose of the COVID-19](#) fact sheet for more information.

AstraZeneca Information



If residents received their first dose of AZ at a pharmacy, **please contact that pharmacy for information on how to receive a second dose** of AZ or one of the mRNA vaccines, or book into one of RCD's mass vaccination clinics to receive an mRNA vaccine. Please note that you cannot book into a primary care AZ clinic. Everyone who received a first dose of AZ will need to read and complete the following document prior to vaccination: [COVID-19 Vaccine Information for Individuals who received a first dose of the AstraZeneca/COVISHIELD COVID-19 vaccine](#).



If you received AZ for your first dose, check out the new fact sheet - [Your Second Dose of the COVID-19 Vaccine](#)

RCDHU and partners are aiming to follow the province's anticipated schedule for eligibility to book a second dose appointment at a shortened interval, based on confirmed supply. To view the anticipated schedule visit: [Anticipated Schedule for Second Doses of COVID-19 Vaccines](#).

Early Second Dose Eligibility

Groups currently eligible to book or rebook their second dose appointment at a shortened interval include:

- Those who received their first dose of an mRNA COVID-19 vaccine **on or before May 9, 2021**.
- Residents in the general population aged 70 and over.
- High-risk health care workers.
- Indigenous residents (on or off reserve) and non-Indigenous partners or household members.

Please note that if you fall under any of the early eligibility groups and already have confirmed a date and time for your second dose appointment, you can keep that appointment, or if you would like it to be sooner, you can cancel that appointment through the link in the email confirming your appointment and book a new one.

Provincial Update

The province is accelerating eligibility to book a second dose appointment as follows:

- As of Monday, June 21, 2021 at 8:00 a.m., all Ontarians who received their first dose of an mRNA COVID-19 vaccine on or before May 9, 2021 will be eligible to book or rebook their second dose appointment at a shortened interval.
- As of Wednesday, June 23, 2021 at 8:00 a.m., individuals who received their first dose of an mRNA vaccine on or before May 30, 2021 and who live in the catchment area of one of the 10 public health units identified as Delta hot spots (Durham, Halton, Hamilton, Peel, Porcupine, Simcoe-Muskoka, Toronto, Waterloo, Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph, and York public health units) will be eligible to book or rebook their second dose appointment at a shortened interval.
- Starting the week of June 28, 2021 (days / sequence to be confirmed) all Ontarians aged 18 and over who have received their first dose of an mRNA COVID-19 vaccine will be eligible to book their second dose appointment. The appointment will be scheduled at least 28 days after the first dose, per the recommended interval.

Effective [June 14, 2021](#), individuals who received their first dose of the AstraZeneca vaccine are also eligible to receive a second dose of a COVID-19 vaccine at an interval of eight to 12 weeks, with informed consent. This can include a second dose of AstraZeneca or an mRNA vaccine. Full details at: [Accelerated Second Dose Eligibility Continues Ahead of Schedule](#).

Federal Update

On June 17, 2021, the Public Health Agency of Canada released updated recommendations from the National Advisory Committee on Immunization (NACI) on first and second doses of COVID-19 vaccines authorized for use in Canada. These updates are based on current scientific evidence and NACI expert opinion.

For first doses, NACI recommends that:

- An mRNA vaccine (Pfizer-BioNTech, Moderna) is preferred to start a vaccine series, unless there is a contraindication, for example, because of an allergy to an mRNA vaccine or its components.
- A viral vector vaccine (AstraZeneca, Janssen) may be offered to start a vaccine series when an mRNA vaccine is inaccessible or contraindicated, for example, because of an allergy to an mRNA vaccine or its components.
 - NACI's previous recommendation – that people who wanted earlier vaccination could receive a viral vector vaccine rather than wait for an mRNA vaccine – reflected the limited supply of mRNA vaccines at the time and the imperative of protecting vulnerable populations from serious illness and death from COVID-19.

For second doses, NACI recommends that:

- Individuals who received a first dose of an mRNA vaccine (Pfizer-BioNTech, Moderna) should be offered the same mRNA product for their second dose. If the same product is not readily available, or the product used for the first dose is unknown, another mRNA vaccine is considered interchangeable and should be used to complete the series.

- An mRNA vaccine is now preferred as the second dose for individuals who received a first dose of the AstraZeneca/COVISHIELD vaccine, based on emerging evidence of a potentially better immune response from this mixed vaccine schedule and to mitigate the potential risk of VITT associated with viral vector vaccines.
- People who received two doses of AstraZeneca/COVISHIELD vaccine can rest assured that the vaccine provides good protection against infection and very good protection against severe disease and hospitalization.

Full details at: [Summary of National Advisory Committee on Immunization statement of June 17, 2021.](#)

RCD Useful Links

RECENT MEDIA RELEASES:

- > [Eligibility for Early Second Dose Expands \(June 18\)](#)
- > [New Appointments Being Released While Eligibility for Weekly Extra Dose Sign-Up List Expands \(June 16\)](#)
- > [If You Received AstraZeneca for Your First Dose - Here is What You Need to Know \(June 14\)](#)

ADDITIONAL:

- > [Edition 17: June 16, 2021](#)
- > [COVID-19 Vaccination Screening and Consent Form](#)



Partner Websites

