

## COVID-19 Vaccine Bulletin #21

### Vaccine Status for Canada

The purpose of the Vaccine Bulletin is to give you the latest information about COVID-19 vaccines. For this bulletin, the focus will be on vaccine status in Canada and building vaccine confidence.

#### Quick Updates

- Check out [Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph's vaccination dashboard](#). The **total number of doses** administered in Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph (WDG) is **107,123**.
- **95%** of people who are 80 years of age and older and **83%** of people who are 65-79 years old in WDG have received at least one dose of vaccine.
- **WDG residents 55 and over are now eligible to schedule a vaccine appointment.**
- **WDG residents who are pregnant no longer need a physician referral** to book an appointment. They can pre-register or call the Booking Helpline (see below) to book their appointment.
- Go to [www.wdgppublichealth.ca/register](http://www.wdgppublichealth.ca/register) for more information about vaccine pre-registration. There is a **Vaccine Registration and Booking Helpline: 1-844-780-0202 (Mon-Fri, 12-8 pm)** for anyone who has issues pre-registering or booking online.
- Review the **new Appointment Booking Status** webpage for more information on who is currently eligible to book a vaccine appointment.
- Those eligible for an [exception to the extended second dose interval](#) should be referred to WDGPH by a health care provider. **Those who have been referred by a health care provider do not need to bring a letter from their physician to their vaccine appointment.** WDGPH will follow-up and book their first and second dose appointments. For more information on second dose extended interval exceptions, review this [Physician Update](#) and accompanying [referral form](#).

#### Vaccine Status for Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph

Maximum number of doses administered in one week = <b>15,057</b>	<b>39%</b> of eligible population (16+) received one dose
Maximum number of doses administered in one day = <b>3,422</b>	Total number of doses given in primary care office or pharmacy = <b>20,544</b>

Age Group	Percentage with First Dose
80+	94%
75-79	90%
70-74	86%
65-69	78%
60-64	73%
55-59	49%

## Vaccine Status for Canada

### Vaccine Rates

<b>13,864,076</b> total doses administered	<b>34%</b> of total population received one dose	<b>40%</b> of eligible population (16+) received first dose
<b>88%</b> aged 80 or older have received one dose	<b>84%</b> aged 70-79 have received one dose	<b>44%</b> of total population in the <b>United States</b> has received one dose

### Vaccine Confidence

- 71% of Canadians have either already had their first dose or indicate they would like to be vaccinated as soon as possible (n=1,594).
- Albertans express the highest level of vaccine hesitation with 28% who say they will not be vaccinated or remain unsure compared to the national average of 16% (for Ontario it's 15%).
- Younger age groups (18-34) and males were more likely to say they won't receive the vaccine or are still unsure than older age groups and females.
- Among those willing to be vaccinated 52% are comfortable with receiving AstraZeneca. Those who are uncomfortable with AstraZeneca are more likely to be female and 55 years of age or older.
- The percentage of Canadians saying they would be comfortable receiving the AstraZeneca vaccine increased 11 percentage points between April 8-22.

### References

Angus Reid Institute (April 26, 2021). Vaccine vaccination: Confidence in AstraZeneca jumps amid increased eligibility; trust in Johnson & Johnson tumbles. Retrieved from: <https://angusreid.org/vaccine-astrazeneca-johnson/>

Public Health Agency of Canada. Canadian report on COVID-19 vaccine doses administered. Ottawa: Public Health Agency of Canada; April 29, 2021. Retrieved from <https://health-infobase.canada.ca/covid-19/vaccine-administration/>

Ritchie, H. et al. (April 29, 2021). Our world in data: Coronavirus (COVID-19 vaccinations). Retrieved from <https://ourworldindata.org/covid-vaccinations>.

## Building Confidence in Vaccines

Source: Public Health Ontario's [Building Confidence in Vaccines](#)

- Health care providers play a critical role in the success of vaccine programs as their recommendations have a strong influence on vaccine acceptance. Research by the Ontario Medical Association shows that physicians are the more trusted source of public health advice.
- Health care provider communication on vaccines needs to promote respectful dialogue, including cultural safety and principles of trauma-informed care, that takes into account the unique circumstance and lived experiences of the individual or group.
- Use of a presumptive approach has been shown to be an effective strategy at increasing vaccine acceptance (e.g., asking when a patient will get their COVID-19 vaccine rather than asking how they feel about getting the vaccine).
- Providing culturally appropriate, multilingual vaccine communication materials is also important for increasing vaccine acceptance.
- For marginalized community members, messages building trust and confidence should also focus on transparency, supporting autonomy, and validating past and ongoing lived experiences of discrimination.
- The following are key principles that may be useful when talking about vaccines:
  - Start from a place of empathy and understanding.
  - Assume patients will want to be vaccinated but be prepared for questions.
  - Give your strong recommendation
  - Address misinformation by sharing key facts.
  - Listen to and respond to patient questions and use a tailored approach.
  - Include information on risks and benefits of vaccination, as most people are looking for balanced information. Frame immunization in terms of positive gains.
  - Proactively explain side effects.

## Updates from the Province of Ontario

- During the weeks of May 3 and May 10, 50% of vaccine allocation will be allocated to hot spots. WDGPH has been identified as one of the health units to receive extra doses.
- A pilot is being launched through 16 pharmacy locations in hot spot communities (Toronto and Peel) to administer the Pfizer vaccine to individuals 55 and over. To find out which pharmacies are part of the pilot, go to [covid-19.ontario.ca/vaccine-locations](https://covid-19.ontario.ca/vaccine-locations) and select Pfizer as a filter.
- The province is expecting 4,089,150 doses of Pfizer in May, 388,100 doses of Moderna for the weeks of May 10 and is waiting for confirmation of shipments for AstraZeneca and Johnson & Johnson.

## Document Updates

1. The National Advisory Committee on Immunization's (NACI) [Recommendations on the Use of COVID-19 Vaccines](#) has been updated (April 23) to include:
  - Information on the variants of concern
  - Updated evidence of risk factors associated with severe outcomes from, or exposure to, COVID-19
  - Emerging evidence on vaccine effectiveness
  - Information on Vaccine-Induced Thrombotic Thrombocytopenia (VITT)
2. The Ministry of Health's [Guidance for Prioritization of Phase 2 Populations](#) has been updated (April 27).

## Reliable Sources of Information on Vaccines

[Public Health Agency of Canada](#)

[Government of Ontario](#)

[Public Health Ontario](#)

[Centre for Effective Practice \(CEP\)](#)

[World Health Organization](#)

[COVID-19 Studies from the World Health Organization Database](#)

[Centres for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\)](#)