

COVID-19 Vaccine Bulletin #25

Youth Vaccinations & New Vaccine Research

Quick Updates

- Check out [Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph's vaccination dashboard](#). The **total number of doses** administered in Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph (WDG) is **169,038**.
- WDG residents or workers who are **12 years of age and older are eligible for a vaccine appointment**. Go to www.wdgpUBLICHEALTH.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.
- Local pharmacies are also providing Pfizer (12 years of age and older) and Moderna (18 years of age and older) vaccine. To find out which pharmacies are offering Pfizer or Moderna vaccine, visit covid-19.ontario.ca/vaccine-locations.
- For more information on booking second doses, review the [Appointment Booking Status](#) webpage.
- Individuals who are taking an **anti-CD20 agent** (immunosuppressive medications such as rituximab, ocrelizumab, and ofatumumab) are [eligible](#) for an exception to the delayed second dose. Health care providers can fax referrals to **1-855-934-5463**.
- Individuals can now [log in to the provincial portal](#) to download or print an electronic COVID-19 receipt for each dose received using a green photo health (OHIP) card. For those with a red and white health card, they can call the Provincial Vaccine Booking Line (1-833-943-3900) and have a copy of the receipt emailed to them.
- Individuals who were vaccinated out of province need to provide proof of their first dose to ensure that the appropriate vaccine is used at second dose and that the second dose is completed in line with their eligibility in Ontario.

Vaccine Status for Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph

63% of residents 16+ received one dose	5% of residents 16+ received two doses
Maximum number of doses administered in one day = 4,515	Total number of doses given in primary care office or pharmacy = 25,736

Age Group	First Dose	Age Group	First Dose
80+	97%	40-44	62%
65-79	90%	35-39	50%
60-64	85%	30-34	42%
55-59	74%	25-29	37%
50-54	71%	20-24	33%
45-49	64%	15-19	22%

Youth Vaccine Information

- There will be 13 youth-focused vaccination clinics (across WDG) from **June 14-26** for students who are 12-17 years of age and their family members. These clinics will open for booking on **June 1 at 12:00 pm**.
- Youth can book into **any** of WDG's mass vaccination clinics using WDGPH's [pre-registration](#) and booking system **or** they can book an appointment at a [pharmacy](#) offering the Pfizer vaccine.
- The Ministry of Health has developed three documents to support youth vaccination:
 - [COVID-19 Vaccine Information Sheet for Youth \(Age 12-17\)](#)
 - [What Youth Need to Know About their Appointment](#)
 - [COVID-19 Vaccine Youth \(Age 12-17\) Consent Form](#)

Second doses of AstraZeneca

- A [WDGPH Physician and Pharmacist Update](#) was sent to all healthcare providers on May 21, 2021 in regard to second doses of AstraZeneca/COVISHIELD
- Review the new and updated Ministry of Health documents related to AstraZeneca/COVISHIELD:
 - [COVID-19 Vaccine Information for individuals that received a first dose of the AstraZeneca/COVISHIELD vaccine](#) (explains the two options for second doses)
 - [Administration of AstraZeneca COVID-19 Vaccine/COVISHIELD Vaccine](#)
- Those primary care providers and pharmacies who are able to offer second doses of AstraZeneca/COVISHIELD are contacting those who are eligible.
- WDGPH will notify primary care providers as soon as possible when more AstraZeneca vaccine is available for second doses.

New and Emerging Vaccine Research

Effectiveness of Vaccines Against B.1.617.2 Variant

- The B.1.617.2 variant which has contributed to the surge of COVID-19 cases in India and is spreading quickly in the UK is reported to be more transmissible than previous versions of the virus.

- A recent **pre-print** study (not yet peer reviewed) from the UK led by Public Health England compared the effectiveness of vaccine against the B.1.1.7 variant (originated in UK) and the B.1.617.2 variant (originated in India):
 - The **Pfizer** vaccine was 88% effective against symptomatic disease from the B.1.617.2 variant two weeks after the **second dose**, compared to 93% effectiveness against the B.1.1.7 variant
 - The **AstraZeneca** vaccine was 60% effective against symptomatic disease from the B.1.617.2 variant after the **second dose** compared to 66% effectiveness against the B.1.1.7 variant.
 - **Both vaccines** were 33% effective against symptomatic disease from B.1.617.2, three weeks after the **first dose** compared to 50% effectiveness against the B.1.1.7 variant.

Lopez Bernal, J. et al. (May 2021). [*Effectiveness of COVID-19 vaccines against the B.1.617.2 variant.*](#) Preprint article (not yet peer reviewed) from Public Health England.

Medicago – Canadian Vaccine

- Medicago is a Quebec-based company that has developed a COVID-19 vaccine that uses a plant-based platform that produces non-infectious versions of viruses called Virus-like Particles (VLPs).
- A preprint article from Medicago reports positive interim Phase 2 results:
 - Similar antibody response in adults (18-64) and older adults (65+)
 - Neutralizing antibody responses were ten times higher than in people recovering from COVID-19
 - No severe adverse events reported

Gobeil, P. et al. (May 17, 2021). [*Interim report of a phase 2 randomized trial of a plant-produced virus-like particle vaccine for COVID-19 in health adults aged 18-64 and older adults aged 65 and older.*](#) Preprint article (not yet peer reviewed) on medRxiv.

Updates from Ontario

- [Ontario](#) has reached its target of administering first doses to 65% of Ontarians aged 18 and over ahead of schedule. Vaccination rates vary across the province as Toronto, York and Peel had an over-allocation of vaccine and the rest of the province was under-allocated. Some areas of Ontario have vaccination coverage rates of 53% while York has a coverage rate of 71%. Locally, our coverage is 63% as WDGPH was under-allocated for vaccine.

- Beginning today (May 31, 2021), individuals who are 80 years of age and older are eligible for accelerated second dose appointments. Beginning the week of June 14, 2021, individuals who are 70 years of age and older will be eligible for second doses. Being eligible does not mean there will be an immediate appointment available for these individuals. WDGPH is still providing first doses of vaccine therefore most second dose appointments will begin later in June. Keep up-to-date on the status of second doses by reviewing the [Appointment Booking Status](#) webpage.
- If there is sufficient vaccine supply, it is anticipated that the majority of Ontario residents who choose to receive the vaccine will be able to be fully vaccinated by the end of summer.
- The timing of second doses appointments may vary based on local considerations, vaccine supply and date of the first dose appointment.

Updates from National Advisory Committee on Immunization (NACI)

- NACI has updated its [Recommendations on the Use of COVID-19 Vaccines](#) (May 28)
- Review the [Summary of NACI statement of May 28, 2021](#)
- Advice on vaccine interchangeability is under active review by NACI, with an update expected in early June 2021.

Reliable Sources of Information on Vaccines

[Public Health Agency of Canada](#)

[Government of Ontario](#)

[Ministry of Health](#)

[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 \(CDC\)](#)