

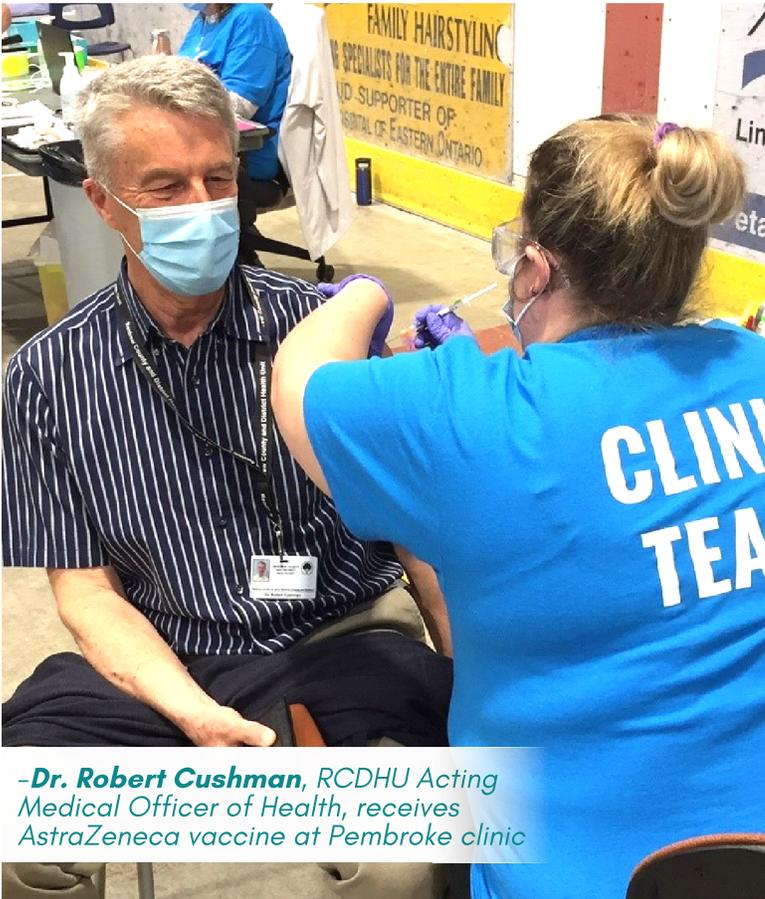
COVID-19 VACCINE NEWS BRIEF

APRIL 22, 2021 | EDITION 9

Local Update

As of April 18, 2021, a total of **26,134 doses** of the COVID-19 vaccine have been administered through one of several COVID-19 vaccination clinics across Renfrew County and District.

Effective April 15th, vaccination clinics in Renfrew County and District (RCD) began booking second dose appointments for individuals upon clinic checkout. For those vaccinated prior to April 15th, RCDHU is now actively preparing to electronically roll out second dose vaccination appointments to those who provided their email address as a primary contact method. Those who only provided phone numbers for follow-up will receive their second dose appointment information via telephone. **Please be patient, as it will take several weeks to receive your second dose information.**



-Dr. Robert Cushman, RCDHU Acting Medical Officer of Health, receives AstraZeneca vaccine at Pembroke clinic

Weekly Number of COVID-19 Vaccines Administered

As of April 18, 2021*



* Total includes doses administered at clinics organized by RCDHU, pharmacies in RCD, and primary care.

A small subset of the population, for example those under treatment for certain types of cancers, are eligible for the second dose **before** 16 weeks. Those who are eligible will receive second dose appointments at the site of their first appointment. For those who have already received their first dose, **physicians will notify these individuals** and second dose appointments will be scheduled accordingly. For eligible residents without a physician, RCDHU will accommodate scheduling second dose appointments.

All second dose notifications will begin to roll out **over the next few weeks** as individuals vaccinated first across RCD will be due to receive their second dose around the end of May.

As part of the Ontario Government's expanding rollout of COVID-19 vaccines, Renfrew County and District Health Unit (RCDHU) will be receiving the AstraZeneca vaccine in the coming weeks. **All appointments for the AstraZeneca vaccine will be booked online through the Renfrew County and District COVID-19 Vaccine Registration System at www.rcdhu.com. Appointments using AstraZeneca will be clearly identified as part of the booking process since there are age restrictions for its use.**



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 and registering appointments. Please 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. 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.

COVID-19 VACCINATION CURRENT LIST OF ELIGIBILITY

As of April 21, 2021



Vaccine clinic dates and times are only available based on vaccine supply.
Local eligibility may differ from provincial announcements based on vaccine supply.

WHO IS CURRENTLY ELIGIBLE TO BOOK AN APPOINTMENT?



- All residents and staff of congregate living facilities (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 18 years of age and older.
- Faith based leaders who, as part of their role, provide end of life care, care of the deceased, home visits to unwell persons, or pastoral care in LTC/RHs or other vulnerable settings.
- People born in 1956 or earlier (65 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 after receiving this call.
- Residents with the following high-risk health conditions and **one** essential caregiver for those in the high-risk health condition group: Organ transplant recipients, Stem cell transplant recipients, Neurological diseases in which breathing function may be impacted (e.g., motor neuron disease, myasthenia gravis, multiple sclerosis, ALS, acquired brain injury), Haematological malignancy (acute lymphocytic (ALL), chronic lymphocytic (CLL), acute myeloid (AML), chronic myeloid (CML)), myeloma, and lymphoma (Hodgkin's and non-Hodgkin's (NHL)), Kidney disease eGFR < 30, Obesity (BMI > 40), Treatments causing immunosuppression (e.g., chemotherapy, immunity-weakening medications such as long-term steroid treatment rheumatoid arthritis, lupus), and Intellectual or developmental disabilities (e.g., Down Syndrome).
- Education staff supporting students with complex special education needs.
- **Residents age 40 and older in 2021 are eligible to book an appointment for an AstraZeneca vaccine through a [participating pharmacy](#) or local clinic.**



*All other **previously eligible individuals** who have not yet booked an appointment **will remain eligible** and can still book an appointment.*

WHO IS ELIGIBLE TO PRE-REGISTER ONLY?



- Residents in the general population born between 1957 and 1961 (60 to 64 years of age).
- Residents with certain at-risk health conditions including: pregnancy, immune deficiencies/autoimmune disorders, stroke/cerebrovascular disease, dementia, diabetes, liver disease, all other cancers, respiratory diseases (e.g., COPD and asthma), spleen problems (e.g., asplenia), heart disease, hypertension with end organ damage, diagnosis of mental disorder, substance use disorders, sickle cell disease, thalassemia, immunocompromising health conditions, other disabilities requiring direct support care in the community. Please note that proof of illness is not required.



***Pre-register only** means that you **cannot book an appointment at this time**. Residents on this list may receive a call offering vaccination if extra doses are available at clinics.*

To pre-register for an appointment or find the latest COVID-19 vaccine information visit
www.rcdhu.com

Good News Spotlight!

Exciting vaccination progress is being made in Renfrew County and District, as we celebrate the following achievements:

- ✔ Second doses for all long-term care and retirement home residents will be completed this week.
- ✔ Approximately 82% of residents 80 years of age and older have been vaccinated; and, over 75% of residents aged 75-79 years of age have now been vaccinated.
- ✔ Nearly all residents receiving chronic home care (identified by home healthcare organizations) have received their vaccinations.



Thank you to our community and our local vaccination teams for these achievements!

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/>



- Staff at work at Pembroke clinic, Pembroke Memorial Centre, April 2021

Provincial Update

On April 19, 2021, the Ontario Government announced that COVID-19 vaccination eligibility at pharmacies and primary care settings will be extended to individuals aged 40 and over in 2021.

By extending vaccination eligibility for the AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine at pharmacies and primary care settings to individuals aged 40 and over, Ontario will be able to offer the protection of the vaccine to more Ontarians earlier than anticipated. With supply of AstraZeneca available at this time, the expansion of eligibility will also significantly increase access to vaccines in hot spot communities.

Vaccinations with the AstraZeneca **vaccine at pharmacies require an appointment** to be made in advance. Eligible adults ages 40 and over 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.

The provincial government states that vaccine administration rates may differ based on local context. For more information on local vaccine rollout, individuals are encouraged to contact their local public health unit. Full details at: [**Ontario Safely Expands Age Eligibility for AstraZeneca COVID-19 Vaccine to 40+**](#).

Federal Update

Last week, based on the review of available data from Europe and the United Kingdom, Health Canada announced that it was not restricting the use of AstraZeneca vaccine at this time.

Health Canada's position that the safety of the AstraZeneca vaccine meets its strict safety standards remains. The results of the ongoing safety assessments have been consistent. The potential risk of these events is very rare, and the benefits of the vaccine in protecting against COVID-19 outweigh its potential risks. Health Canada's findings are based on a sound and thorough review of all evidence available.

Full details can be found at: [Health Canada provides update on the AstraZeneca and COVISHIELD COVID-19 vaccines.](#)

RCD Useful Links

RECENT MEDIA RELEASES:

- [In coming weeks RCD Residents Requiring Second Dose COVID-19 Vaccine Appointments Will Be Notified \(April 16\)](#)
- [Renfrew County and District Will Receive Additional Doses of AstraZeneca Vaccine Enabling Some Age Groupings to Get Vaccinated Weeks Earlier Than Anticipated \(April 12\)](#)
- [Residents with Certain High-Risk Health Conditions Now Eligible For COVID-19 Vaccinations \(April 8\)](#)

COVID-19 VACCINE NEWS BRIEF:

- [Edition 8: April 14, 2021](#)
- [Edition 7: April 7, 2021](#)
- [Edition 6: March 30, 2021](#)

ADDITIONAL:

- [COVID-19 Vaccination Screening and Consent Form](#)
- [COVID-19 Vaccine Frequently Asked Questions](#)

Partner Websites

