

# COVID-19 VACCINE NEWS BRIEF

JUNE 2, 2021 | EDITION 15

## Local Update

As of May 31, a total of **57,842 doses** of the COVID-19 vaccine have been administered through one of several COVID-19 vaccination clinics across Renfrew County and District (RCD) with **59.2%** of RCD adults (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.

**1.** Renfrew County and District Health Unit (RCDHU), in collaboration with partners, introduced a new **COVID-19 Vaccine Weekly Extra Dose Sign-Up List** for residents who have not yet received their first dose of the COVID-19 vaccine, and for Indigenous People who are being prioritized for early second doses.



- Renfrew Mayor Don Eady and Chris Ferguson, RVH Vice President of Patient Care Services, visit the RVH vaccine clinic at Ma-te-way Centre

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

As of May 31, 2021



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

Residents who have been unable to book a vaccine appointment due to high demand can now 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.

**This Extra Dose Sign-Up List is not in place of booking an appointment and everyone should continue to book appointments as they become available.** To add your name to the Weekly Extra Dose Sign-Up List, click <https://bit.ly/3wFWMVY> or visit [www.rcdhu.com](http://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**. Full details can be found at [New Weekly Extra Dose Sign-Up List Developed](#).

**2.** Locally, RCDHU and partners are working on a second dose strategy and further details will be provided as they become available. At this time, **you cannot book your own second dose appointment.** We will contact you to schedule your second dose appointment. Please be patient. Do not call RCDHU to book a second dose appointment unless it has been 12 weeks since you received your first dose, and you still have not been contacted.

**3.** 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. The Pfizer vaccine is currently the only COVID-19 vaccine that has been authorized by Health Canada for use in youth aged 12 to 17.

While most clinics in RCD are fully booked for the coming weeks, dedicated clinics will be held the weeks of June 14 and June 21 for individuals ages 12 to 17.

For details specific to youth vaccination and what you need to bring to your appointment, visit the [COVID-19 Vaccine Youth \(Ages 12-17\) Information](#) resource. For additional information for youth and/or parents/legal guardians, please visit:

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



## Who is Currently Eligible for First Dose Vaccination?



- 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.

**PLEASE NOTE: At this time there is no longer pre-registration for appointments.**

# First Dose Booking Information

**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](http://www.rcdhu.com) OR [Ontario.ca/bookvaccine](http://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 asks 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, ext. 977. For details on what to bring to your appointment, visit the [COVID-19 Vaccination Appointment Checklist](#).

**3. 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. 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.

**4. We ask that you only cancel your appointment if absolutely necessary.** Due to vaccine demand and limitations, we would discourage cancellations or change requests unless necessary. If you must reschedule, call 613-732-3629 ext. 202 or 1-800-267-1097 ext. 202 and leave one message with your request to cancel this appointment. After your request has been received, you will be added to a waitlist until we have availability for you to be rescheduled.

**5.** People should contact their primary care provider if they have questions about their eligibility and/or personal health status before they receive the vaccine. Those without a primary care provider can contact the Renfrew County Virtual Triage and Assessment Centre (VTAC) (1-844-727-6404) to consult with a family physician.

## Second Dose Highlights

 **At this time we are pausing second dose bookings.** Currently RCDHU and partners are developing a second dose strategy. We ask that all residents **remain patient.** We assure you that everyone who wants one, will receive their second dose. We will release more information as it becomes available.

 **Please do not call RCDHU to book a second dose appointment at this time.**

 As per the announcement from the provincial government regarding the shortening of the interval between first and second doses, RCDHU and partners are aiming to follow the anticipated schedule for eligibility to book a second dose appointment based on confirmed supply.

The anticipated provincial schedule is as follows:

- Week of May 31: individuals aged 80+
- Week of June 14: individuals aged 70+
- Week of June 28: individuals who received their first dose between the week of March 8 to April 18, on a "first-in, first-out" basis. For example, this included individuals with the highest-risk health conditions and special education workers.

# Good News Spotlight!

“ Good afternoon. I just want to say thank you for all the work you have done getting the vaccine out to the residents of Renfrew County. You made this so easy for us, booking was fast and getting the vaccine in **Barry's Bay** was seamless. My husband and I were there this week and it took 30 minutes in and out. Special thank you to all the workers in Barry Bay for their **kindness** and the **hard work** they are doing, in these difficult times. ”

- Renfrew County and District Resident



## Transportation Assistance

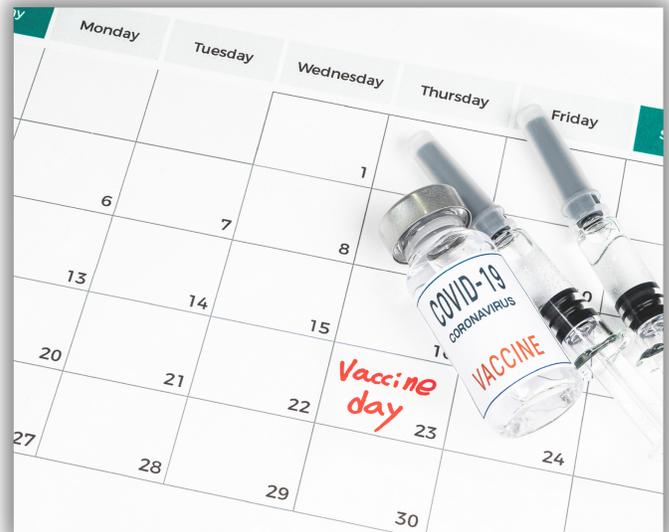


Assistance with transportation to COVID-19 vaccination appointments is available for seniors and adults with a disability who have no available transportation options. If you have any questions regarding transportation, please feel to call **1-833-617-4357 (HELP)**. You must have a vaccine appointment 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/>

## Provincial Update

The Ontario Government announced that the province is shortening the interval between first and second COVID-19 vaccination doses as 65% of Ontarians aged 18 and over have now received their first dose. The timing of second dose appointments may vary based on local considerations, vaccine supply and the date of first dose appointment. Full details on the provincial government's eligibility for accelerated second dose appointments can be found at: [Ontario Accelerates Rollout of Second Shots Targeting a Two-Dose Summer.](#)



To view the anticipated schedule for eligibility to book a second dose appointment based on confirmed supply, visit: [Anticipated Schedule for Second Doses of COVID-19 Vaccines.](#)

Currently, the AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine is being offered at an accelerated pace with a 10-week interval for individuals who received their first dose between March 10 to March 19, 2021.

In addition, beginning the week of May 31st, all individuals who received their first dose of the AstraZeneca vaccine from March 10 onwards will be eligible to receive a second dose of the AstraZeneca vaccine at a 12-week interval, with appointment dates based on the timing of their first dose. If you are interested in booking an appointment, visit [ontario.ca/pharmacycovidvaccine](https://ontario.ca/pharmacycovidvaccine) to find a participating pharmacy and can contact the pharmacy to make an appointment.

## Federal Update

Health Canada has approved an extension to the expiry dates of two lots (MT0055 and MT0056) of the AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine by 30 days, from May 31, 2021, to July 1, 2021. The approval to extend the shelf life was supported by scientific evidence. Full details at: [Health Canada extends expiry date of two lots of the AstraZeneca vaccine by an extra month.](#)

On June 1, 2021, the Public Health Agency of Canada released, updated recommendations from the National Advisory Committee on Immunization (NACI) on the interchangeability of authorized COVID-19 vaccines (also referred to as 'mixed vaccine schedules'). NACI recommends that:

- Persons who received a first dose of the AstraZeneca/COVISHIELD vaccine may receive either AstraZeneca/COVISHIELD vaccine or an mRNA vaccine (Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna) for their second dose, unless contraindicated.
- Persons who received a first dose of an mRNA vaccine (Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna) should be offered the same mRNA vaccine for their second dose. If the same mRNA vaccine is not readily available or unknown, another mRNA vaccine can be considered interchangeable and should be offered to complete the vaccine series.

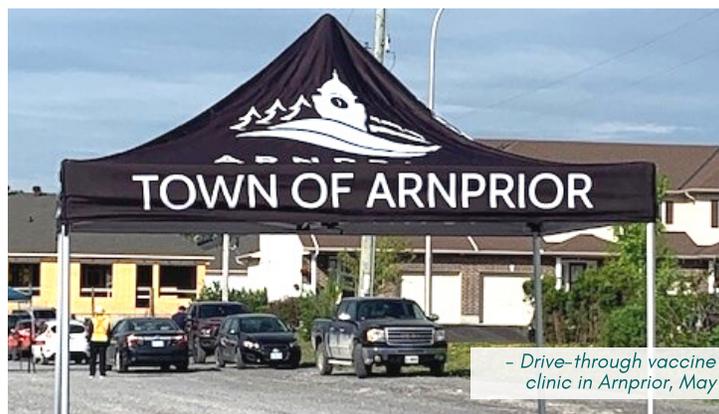
## RCD Useful Links

### RECENT MEDIA RELEASES:

- [Province Shortening Interval Between COVID-19 Vaccination Doses \(May 28\)](#)
- [New Weekly Extra Dose Sign-Up List Developed \(May 27\)](#)
- [COVID-19 Vaccine Appointment Eligibility Expanding to Include Individuals 12-17 Years of Age \(May 22\)](#)

### COVID-19 VACCINE NEWS BRIEF:

- [Edition 14: May 26, 2021](#)
- [Edition 13: May 18, 2021](#)



### ADDITIONAL:

- [Video: RCD COVID-19 Vaccination Clinic Walk-Through](#)
- [COVID-19 Vaccine Frequently Asked Questions](#)
- [COVID-19 Vaccination Screening and Consent Form](#)

### Partner Websites

