

## Renfrew County and District Health Unit "Optimal Health for All in Renfrew County and District"

## For Immediate Release

(Pembroke, Ontario, 3:40 p.m., April 6, 2022)

## RCDHU Asks Residents to Be Patient as Ontario Expands Fourth Dose Eligibility

Effective Thursday, April 7<sup>th</sup> at 8:00 a.m., Renfrew County and District Health Unit (RCDHU) and its partners will be expanding eligibility for the COVID-19 vaccination fourth dose (second booster) in line with the province. Eligibility will include residents 60 years of age and over, as well as First Nation, Inuit and Métis individuals and their non-indigenous household members aged 18 and over. Booster doses are being offered to these individuals at a recommended interval of five months after receiving their last booster.

Anyone who recently experienced a COVID-19 infection should wait 90 days following their symptom onset date or the date that they tested positive for COVID-19, before receiving their booster dose (and only if five months has already passed since receiving the first booster dose).

Eligible residents can visit their local pharmacies to receive the second booster dose. It is recommended that you call the pharmacy ahead of time as vaccine supply varies and appointments may be required.

At this time, second booster doses will be offered **by appointment only**, through community-based clinics. Eligible residents looking to book an appointment locally can do so via the following online link: <a href="https://covid-19.ontario.ca/book-vaccine/">https://covid-19.ontario.ca/book-vaccine/</a>, or by contacting the Provincial Vaccine Contact Centre at 1-833-943-3900. Interested residents can view the latest COVID-19 vaccination schedule by visiting <a href="RCDHU's COVID-19 Vaccine Rollout webpage">RCDHU's COVID-19 Vaccine Rollout webpage</a> or by monitoring RCDHU's social media profiles on Facebook and Twitter.

Even if you have been vaccinated, it is important to continue following public health measures to keep the community safe; stay home if you are sick, avoid contact with people who are ill, practice physical distancing (2 metres), wear a mask/face covering when physical distancing cannot be maintained, wash your hands, use the COVID Alert App, and complete the COVID-19 self-assessment tool or COVID-19 school and child care self-assessment tool daily before going to work, school or daycare, to monitor for symptoms and proper guidance.

For more information on COVID-19 vaccination, visit <a href="https://www.rcdhu.com/novel-coronavirus-covid-19-vaccine-rollout/">https://www.rcdhu.com/novel-coronavirus-covid-19-vaccine-rollout/</a>.

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