RCD COVID-19 Vaccine Communications Committee

For Immediate Release

(Pembroke, Ontario,12:45 p.m., April 03, 2021)

COVID-19 Vaccination Appointments Now Open to Seniors 70 Years of Age and Older

There has been tremendous interest and uptake in COVID-19 vaccination so far in Renfrew County and District (RCD). Renfrew County and District Health Unit (RCDHU) is now booking the 70-74 age category, including those born in 1951 that have not yet turned 70. Please note that individuals 75 years of age and older and the other previously eligible groups who have not booked appointments can still do so.

A) **Eligible people who can <u>pre-register and book</u> an appointment based on availability of vaccine:**

1. **People born in 1951 or earlier (70 years of age and older).**
2. All residents and staff of congregate living residences.
3. Faith based leaders who as part of their regular role are at increased risk of exposure to COVID-19 through close contact with persons and families in the following circumstances:
   - End of life care.
   - Care of the deceased, funerals, bathing, or other ceremony with direct contact with deceased persons.
   - Home visits to unwell persons.
     Pastoral care in hospitals/LTC/RHs or other vulnerable settings.
4. Long-Term Care and Retirement Home essential caregivers.
5. Indigenous residents (on or off reserve)18 years of age and older.
6. <u>All </u>health care workers.
7. 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.

<u>Pre-registration and booking</u> means that you are eligible to sign up <u>and</u> receive a vaccination appointment.

B) **Eligible people who can <u>pre-register only</u> at this time (cannot book an appointment yet):**

1. **Residents in the general population born between 1952 and 1956 (65 to 69 years of age).**

Pre-register only, means that **you cannot book appointments at this time**. This ensures that residents are readily available should RCDHU receive extra vaccine, and so that staff can plan and prepare for upcoming vaccination clinics. Residents on the 65 to 69 years of age **registration only list** may receive calls offering vaccination if extra doses are available at clinics.

We are asking residents to please register online when possible as this is the fastest way. Individuals are encouraged to ask a family member or friend to assist is 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, Ext. 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.

The health unit is also asking that residents only call the COVID-19 Booking/Registration number for booking/registering appointments. 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 visit RCDHU's website. For details specific to vaccination registration and appointments (i.e., what you need to bring), visit the COVID-19 Vaccination Appointment Checklist.

Please note that **all vaccinations currently taking place are for those receiving their first dose only.** All second doses, except for a minority of classifications will be administered 16 weeks after the first. Information about the notification and booking process for second doses is still being developed but will be rolled out as soon as a process is in place. We appreciate your patience.

For more information, visit RCDHU's website at https://www.rcdhu.com/novel-coronavirus-covid-19-2/ or call 613-732-3629 or 1-800-267-1097.
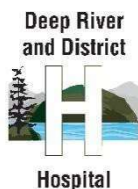
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