

RCD COVID-19 Vaccine Communications Committee

For Immediate Release

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High COVID-19 Vaccine Uptake in Renfrew County and District – AstraZeneca Vaccine Now Available to Individuals 40 Years of Age and Over

To date, Renfrew County and District (RCD) has had exceptional vaccination interest and uptake. As of today, the following have received their COVID-19 vaccine:

- Over 82% of RCD residents ages 80 and over,
- Approximately 75% of residents ages 75 to 79 and over,
- Over 56% of residents ages 70 to 74,
- Almost all residents receiving chronic home care (identified by home healthcare organizations).

These numbers will continue to rise in the coming weeks, as more people attend vaccination appointments.

The Province has also announced that people 40 years of age and older are now eligible to receive the AstraZeneca vaccine through primary care or at a pharmacy.

“This is great news for the residents of RCD who will now be able to receive a vaccine weeks before they originally would have been able to, based on age group eligibility,” states Dr. Robert Cushman, Acting Medical Officer of Health, Renfrew County and District Health Unit (RCDHU). “Thus far, the AstraZeneca rollout in RCD has been a tremendous success! Last week, more than 900 people received their first dose of AstraZeneca in primary care led clinics across RCD, and another 900 people have made appointments to roll up their sleeves this week,” continues Dr. Cushman.

Locally, we are happy to report that primary care has used all our allotment of AstraZeneca in two weeks, one of the fastest AZ rollouts in the Province. Andrew Keck, Manager of Vaccine COVID-19 Vaccine Rollout states, “our successful AstraZeneca rollout was made possible by our wonderful primary care partners. They all demonstrated a level of partnership and collaboration that is unparalleled. Pulling together and offering efficient mass clinics to not only their own patients, but also the general public, enabled an additional 1,800 RCD residents to get vaccinated with first doses, and removed barriers for those who do not have a family care provider.”

Health Canada has indicated that the benefits of the AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine continue to outweigh the risks, making it is safe for use in individuals 40 years of age and over. Health Canada’s position remains that the safety of the AstraZeneca vaccine meets its strict safety standards. Results of ongoing safety assessments have been consistent, and the potential risk of blood clots is very rare.

"Folks want to be vaccinated and wisely they understand that the risks from getting COVID-19 or even being in a car accident, far outweigh the risk of the vaccine," finishes Dr. Cushman.

All upcoming appointments for the AstraZeneca vaccine will be booked through [participating pharmacies](#) until further notice as primary care providers are awaiting more supply from the provincial government.

For details specific to vaccination registration and appointments (i.e., what you need to bring), visit the [COVID-19 Vaccination Appointment Checklist](#). Visit the following resources for more information on [What you need to know about your COVID-19 vaccine appointment \(Ministry of Health\)](#) and what to expect [After your COVID-19 vaccine \(Ministry of Health\)](#).

For more information, visit the [COVID-19 Vaccine Frequently Asked Questions](#) or [RCDHU's website](#) or call 613-732-3629 or 1-800-267-1097.

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