

RCD COVID-19 Vaccine Communications Committee

For Immediate Release

(Pembroke, Ontario, 3:00 p.m., May 22, 2021)

COVID-19 Vaccine Appointment Eligibility Expanding to Include Individuals 12-17 Years of Age

Renfrew County and District Health Unit (RCDHU) continues to expand COVID-19 vaccination appointments in-line with provincial eligibility groups.

“While the province continues to expand eligibility, we ask that you please be patient as demand for vaccine is far outweighing the guaranteed weekly supply of approximately 6000 doses,” states Dr. Robert Cushman, Acting Medical Officer of Health, RCDHU. “Please be assured that everyone who wants a vaccine will receive one, it will just take time,” continues Dr. Cushman.

Effective May 23, 2021, at 8:00 a.m., existing eligibility groups will further expand to include:

- Residents in the general population aged 12 to 17 (must be 12 years of age as of the date of vaccination).

While most clinics 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. These clinic spots will likely open later this week.

Please note that youth 12 to 17 years of age will be 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.

Residents are being asked to please book online as this is the fastest way. Individuals are encouraged to ask a family member or friend to assist if they are unable to book online themselves. Please **book only one appointment per person** to ensure that appointments are available to other eligible individuals. **If you book an appointment, please keep it.** If it is critical to change your appointment, **please cancel through the link in the email** you received confirming your appointment.

ONLY if a person is unable to book online, they can call RCDHU at 613-735-9724 or 1-800-267-1097, Ext. 200. Residents are asked to leave one message with their name and phone number, and someone will return their call as soon as possible.

People should contact their primary care provider if they have questions about their eligibility

and/or personal health status before they receive the vaccine. Alternatively, 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.

For details specific to vaccination registration and appointments (i.e., what you need to bring), visit the [COVID-19 Vaccination Appointment Checklist](#).

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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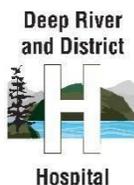
Committee Spokesperson: Carolyn Levesque

Public Affairs and Communications Coordinator

Pembroke Regional Hospital

(613) 732-3675, extension 6165

Carolyn.levesque@prh.email



Arnprior & District
Family Health Team