

# COVID-19 VACCINE NEWS BRIEF

JUNE 9, 2021 | EDITION 16

## Local Update

As of June 7, a total of **66,787 doses** of the COVID-19 vaccine have been administered through one of several COVID-19 vaccination clinics across Renfrew County and District (RCD) with **62.9%** of **RCD residents (aged 12+)** 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.**

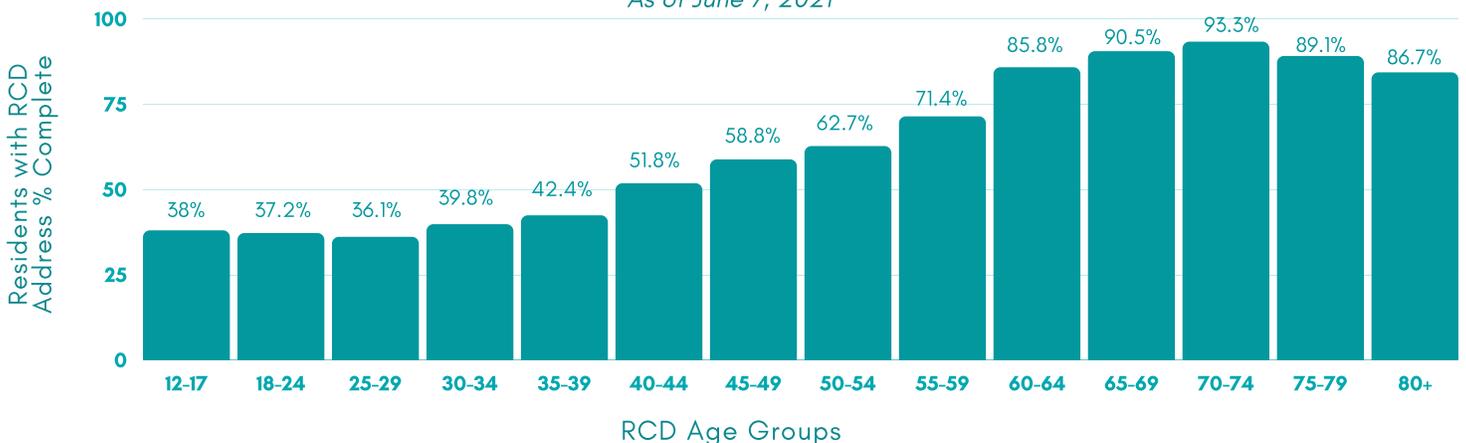
Effective June 7, 2021, eligible people who can book an **early second dose** appointment based on availability of vaccine include:

- Residents in the general population aged 70 and over.
- High risk health care workers.
- Indigenous residents (on or off reserve).
- Any individuals vaccinated prior to April 18th, 2021.



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

As of June 7, 2021



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

Residents are being asked to please register online at [Renfrew County - COVID Vaccination Clinic Registration](#), 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.

Remember, **you cannot book your own second dose appointment unless you are currently eligible for an early second dose**. 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.

## Youth Corner (ages 12-17)



 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.

Family members who have not been vaccinated are encouraged to book an appointment where there is an appointment available when their child/youth (12 to 17 years of age) has their appointment.

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](#)

## Good News Spotlight!

“ Firstly, I want to thank you for the hard work the health unit is putting in to get the vaccine clinics working in our communities. I went to Cobden to get my COVID-19 vaccine and was impressed with how well run it was, how enthusiastic every one was (in spite of the rain!) and how quickly you were able to pull everything together... From an outsider's viewpoint everything looked good, and it only took 30 minutes at most to get the shot and wait for 15 minutes afterwards. ”

- 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/>

# First Dose Booking Information

**1. 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 613-732-9724 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. 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.

**3. 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.

# First Dose Eligibility List



 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.

## Weekly Extra Dose Sign Up List



Residents who have been unable to book a first dose vaccine appointment or for those eligible to receive an earlier second dose 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 Renfrew County and District (RCD).

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. **The Extra Dose Sign-Up List is not in place of booking an appointment and everyone should continue to book appointments as they become available.** Full details at: [New Weekly Extra Dose Sign-Up List Developed](#).



- Residents celebrate 60% milestone at vaccination clinic in Chalk River

# Second Dose Highlights



**You cannot book your second dose appointment unless you are currently eligible for an early second dose appointment.**

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.

To view the anticipated schedule visit: [Anticipated Schedule for Second Doses of COVID-19 Vaccines](#).

## AstraZeneca Information



RCDHU will be sending out second dose appointments for AstraZeneca to those eligible for the 12 week interval. **The email will also include an option to identify if you would like to receive an mRNA vaccine for your second dose.** Most of the first doses of AstraZeneca in Renfrew County and District were administered the second week of April to the third week of April. This means that the scheduling of the second dose for most people will be mid-July.



Individuals who received their first dose of the AstraZeneca vaccine and are opting to receive either a second dose of AstraZeneca or an mRNA vaccine (Pfizer or Moderna) can now schedule their second dose appointment at a participating pharmacy **12 weeks** after their first dose. **Note: It is important to receive your second dose of AstraZeneca at the 12 week interval to improve the efficacy of the vaccine.** If you believe you are eligible for a shortened dose interval of AstraZeneca review the [COVID-19 Vaccine Series Second Dose Eligibility Quick Reference](#). For more information on dosing intervals, please visit the following resource: [COVID-19 vaccines: getting your second dose](#).

## Early Second Dose Information

Effective June 7, 2021, eligible people who can book an **early second dose** appointment based on availability of vaccine include:

- Residents in the general population aged 70 and over.
- High risk health care workers.
- Indigenous residents (on or off reserve) and non-Indigenous partners or household members.
- Any individuals vaccinated prior to April 18th, 2021.

Please note that if you fall under any of the early eligibility groups and already have confirmed a date and time for your second dose appointment, you can keep that appointment, or if you would like it to be sooner, you can cancel that appointment through the link in the email confirming your appointment and book a new one.

# Provincial Update

As of 8:00 a.m. on Monday, June 7, 2021, individuals turning ages 70 and over in 2021, as well as individuals who received their first dose of an mRNA vaccine on or before April 18, 2021, became eligible to schedule an appointment to receive their second dose of a COVID-19 vaccine at a mass immunization clinic through the [provincial booking system](#) and call centre. For full details visit: [Ontario Expanding Accelerated Second Dose Booking to More Ontarians Ahead of Schedule](#).

Effective June 4, 2021, in alignment with the National Advisory Committee on Immunization's (NACI) recommendation, Ontarians who have received their first dose of the AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine can choose to either receive a second dose of the AstraZeneca vaccine, or an mRNA (Pfizer or Moderna) vaccine for their second dose. Both second-dose options available to individuals who received their first dose of the AstraZeneca vaccine are safe and provide strong protection against COVID-19 and will count as a completed series. These second dose options will be provided at the recommended 12-week interval.

As of June 4, 2021, individuals who received their first dose of the AstraZeneca vaccine 12 weeks ago and who would like their second dose of the AstraZeneca vaccine, can contact the pharmacy or primary care provider where they received their first dose to book an appointment. Individuals who received their first dose of the AstraZeneca vaccine and are opting to receive an mRNA vaccine have the option to schedule their second dose appointment at a [participating pharmacy](#) where the Pfizer or Moderna vaccines are administered. Primary care settings and pharmacies may also be reaching out to eligible Ontarians. Full details at: [Ontario Updating AstraZeneca Second Dose Guidance](#).

# Federal Update

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.

Full details found at: [Interchangeability of Authorized COVID-19 Vaccines](#).

# RCD Useful Links

## RECENT MEDIA RELEASES:

- > [Information on AstraZeneca Second Dose Interval \(June 9\)](#)
- > [COVID-19 Vaccine Eligibility Expands for Early Second Dose Booking \(June 7\)](#)

## COVID-19 VACCINE NEWS BRIEF:

- > [Edition 15: June 2, 2021](#)

## ADDITIONAL:

- > [COVID-19 Vaccine Frequently Asked Questions](#)
- > [COVID-19 Vaccination Screening and Consent Form](#)

## Partner Websites

