

For Immediate Release

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RCDHU COVID-19 and Flu Community Mass Clinics Winding Down

Renfrew County and District Health Unit's (RCDHU) large-scale community COVID-19 and flu vaccine clinics for the general public are winding down this month. COVID-19 and flu vaccines will remain accessible through participating primary care providers and <u>pharmacies</u>. Additionally, RCDHU will continue to offer limited booked appointments for people at higher risk of severe respiratory illness and for children 11 years of age and younger (whom pharmacies cannot always vaccinate).

Individuals at higher risk include:

- Residents and staff of congregate living settings (e.g., chronic care facilities, retirement homes)
- Pregnant individuals
- Individuals 65 years of age and older
- All children 6 months to 4 years of age (influenza only)
- Individuals who are from a First Nation, Inuit or Métis community, and/or who self-identify as First Nation, Inuit, or Métis, and their household members
- Individuals 6 months of age and older with underlying health conditions, per National Advisory Committee on Immunization (Influenza, COVID-19)
- Members of racialized and other equity deserving communities
- Health care workers and first responders

"With high local respiratory illness activity, I strongly encourage anyone who is eligible and has not yet received their flu and COVID-19 vaccines to do so as soon as possible," says Dr. Jason Morgenstern, Medical Officer of Health at RCDHU. "In the new year, RCDHU will be prioritizing immunization services for those at higher risk of severe illness and children 11 years of age and younger. Please seek vaccination through your primary care provider or pharmacy whenever possible."

Please contact your pharmacy or primary care provider ahead of time to inquire if they offer COVID-19 and flu vaccines. For any further questions, or if you are unable to receive a COVID-19 and flu vaccine through your health care provider or pharmacy, contact the RCDHU Immunization Line at 613-732-9436 for further assistance.

Stay connected by visiting the <u>RCDHU website</u>.

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