

Renfrew County and District Health Unit

"Optimal Health for All in Renfrew County and District"

For Immediate Release

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RCDHU Launches Fall Vaccine Clinics for COVID-19, Flu, and RSV

Renfrew County and District Health Unit (RCDHU) is launching its Fall Vaccine Program, offering COVID-19, flu, and respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) immunization clinics. RCDHU clinics for higher-risk and priority groups begin on October 7th, and COVID-19 and flu vaccinations become available for everyone on October 27th.

"I strongly encourage everyone to get their COVID-19, flu, and RSV vaccines as soon as they're eligible," says Dr. Jason Morgenstern, Medical Officer of Health, RCDHU. "It's the best way to protect yourself and others from respiratory illness, while also reducing strain on our healthcare system throughout the fall and winter."

COVID-19, Flu, and Adult RSV Immunization

RCDHU will be providing COVID-19, flu, and adult RSV immunizations through mass immunization clinics. A significant change this year is that publicly funded **adult RSV** vaccination is now available to everyone age 75 and older.

Eligible **high-risk individuals and priority groups can now book an appointment**. Limited walk-in availability may be offered. To book an appointment for COVID-19, Flu, and/or Adult RSV vaccination, **please use our new online appointment booking system**, or call 613-732-9436.

COVID-19 and flu vaccines are also available through participating pharmacies and healthcare providers, while adult RSV vaccines are also available through participating healthcare providers.

Who's Eligible Now?

COVID-19 and Flu Vaccine Eligibility

- Adults 65+
- Residents of long-term care and other congregate living settings
- Pregnant individuals
- Children aged 6 months to 4 years

- People with underlying medical conditions that increase their risk of severe illness (see
 <u>The flu | ontario.ca</u> for more information)
- First Nations, Métis, and Inuit community members
- Healthcare workers and first responders
- Members of underserved communities
- Staff and care providers in congregate living settings
- Individuals with high-risk occupational exposure to birds or mammals (e.g., poultry, livestock, wildlife workers)
- For COVID-19 vaccination, please ensure it has been at least 3 months since your last COVID-19 vaccine.

Starting October 27th, COVID-19 and flu vaccines will be available to everyone aged 6 months and older through RCDHU clinics, pharmacies, and healthcare providers.

Adult RSV Vaccine Eligibility

- Adults 75+
- Adults 60+ at higher risk of severe illness (e.g., long-term care residents, dialysis patients, transplant recipients, people experiencing homelessness, Indigenous community members)

The RSV vaccine provides multiple seasons of protection, so only those who have not previously been vaccinated against RSV are eligible.

For all RCDHU COVID-19, flu, and adult RSV vaccination clinic dates and locations, visit <u>COVID-19, Flu, and RSV - Renfrew County and District Health Unit</u>.

Infant and High-Risk Children RSV Immunization

RSV can cause severe illness and complications in infants, including hospitalization and intensive care unit admission. Immunization with RSV antibody is once again available and recommended to protect infants and high-risk children against RSV infection this fall.

Infant and High-Risk Children RSV Immunization Eligibility

- Infants born after April 1st, 2025, and under 8 months
- Children up to 24 months of age with qualifying medical conditions (visit <u>Respiratory</u> <u>Syncytial Virus | ontario.ca</u> for more information).

To book an **RSV immunization appointment for infants and high-risk children through RCDHU**, call **613-732-9436**. RSV immunization is also available through our local birthing hospital at time of delivery.

Pregnant individuals interested in RSV vaccination should consult their healthcare provider.

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