



Internal Update

Tuesday, March 23, 2021



COVID-19 Response Framework
Current Level for our Region



Red - Control
(Stringent Measures)

Broader-scale actions and restrictions across multiple sectors to control the spread. Restrictions are the most severe available before widescale business or organizational closings.

Click [here](#) for more details on this level.



COVID-19 Monitoring Dashboard

This dashboard presents status levels of four domains (below) using a three colour-coded system (Red, Yellow & Green) that reflect the SMDHU's assessment of current state of the pandemic in Simcoe Muskoka, and our local public health system.

Current Overall Status: Red - Indicators Need Attention



Virus Spread & Containment

Status: **Red**



Laboratory Testing

Status: **Yellow**



Health System Capacity

Status: **Yellow**



Public Health System Capacity

Status: **Red**

For more details on the COVID-19 Monitoring Dashboard for our region, please click [here](#).

Supervisors/Managers, please print and post this update in your area and discuss with your employees to ensure they're aware of these topics.

1) Ontario's Booking System to Expand to Individuals Aged 75 and Older as Vaccine Rollout Accelerates

With over 50 per cent of Ontario residents aged 80 and over having received at least one dose of the COVID-19 vaccine, the Ontario government is expanding appointments through its online booking system to individuals aged 75 and over, effective Monday, March 22, 2021, ahead of schedule. Ontario began vaccinating individuals aged 80 and over in February, and launched [an online booking tool and a call centre](#) to help answer questions and support appointment bookings at mass immunization clinics. Since the provincial booking system was launched on March 15, more than 239,000 appointments have been scheduled for the first and second doses.

As of March 22, 2021, participating pharmacies and primary care settings will offer vaccination appointments to individuals aged 60 and over. Eligible Ontarians can contact a participating pharmacy directly to make an appointment. In addition, many primary care providers are directly contacting eligible patients to book an appointment. The province also continues to expand the delivery channels with another 350 pharmacies to be brought on board across the province in the next two weeks bringing the total to approximately 700 locations. It is expected that this number would again be doubled to approximately 1,500 by the end of April. Depending on vaccine supply, retail pharmacies could administer up to 40 per cent of all vaccinations by the end of April.

- The AstraZeneca pharmacy pilot requires an appointment to be made in advance for the vaccine. Eligible adults aged 60+ (born in 1961 or earlier) who are interested in booking an appointment, can visit ontario.ca/pharmacycovidvaccine to find a participating pharmacy and can contact the pharmacy to make an appointment. A valid OHIP card or other valid government issued identification is required. **Currently**, only 327 pharmacies in Kingston, Frontenac, Lennox and Addington; Toronto; and Windsor-Essex public health units are participating.
- Vaccinations with the AstraZeneca vaccine at primary care settings are part of a limited rollout according to available supply and are not taking appointments by request. Do not call your primary care providers to book an appointment – participating primary care providers in select areas are reaching out to eligible Ontarians aged 60 and older.
- If an individual is turning 75 or older in 2021 and does not live in a congregate care setting, they can schedule a vaccine appointment by visiting [Ontario.ca/bookvaccine](https://ontario.ca/bookvaccine), or by calling the Provincial Vaccine Information Line number at 1-888-999-6488. The Provincial Vaccine Information Line is open Monday to Sunday from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. and is capable of providing assistance in 300 languages.

Click [here](#) to read the full media release from the Province.



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2) Second Vaccine Doses now being given 16 weeks after first dose

Second doses are now being given 16 weeks after the first dose as recommended by the [National Advisory Council for Immunization \(NACI\)](#). This allows Ontario to maximize the number of people who can benefit from the strong protection provided by the first dose.

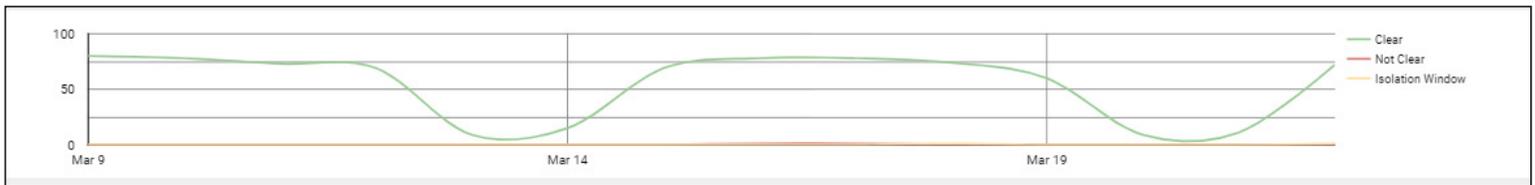
- Anyone who received their first COVID-19 immunization prior to March 10 are reminded that their second dose appointment has been cancelled and will be rebooked later.
- Only the following groups are to continue to receive their second dose of vaccine at the initial 21 to 27 day interval:
 - Long-term care home, retirement home, and Elder care lodge residents, and;
 - Individuals living in First Nations communities.
- People are encouraged to refer to the SMDHU website in early May for an update on how to book an appointment to receive their second dose of vaccine.

3) Town of Midland Active Screening

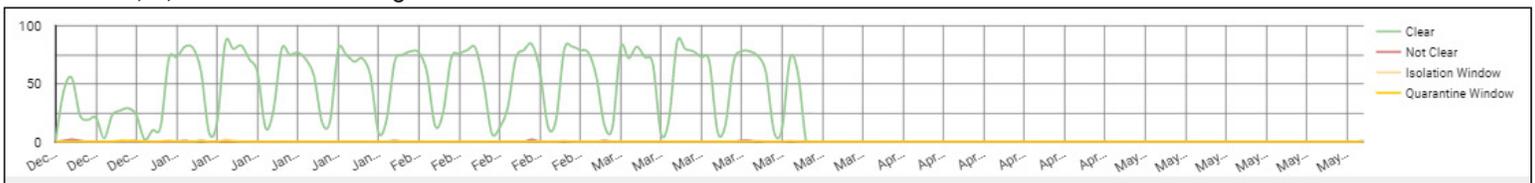
Our Active Screening SOP and the Health Unit states you must screen prior to entry into any facility or vehicle. We encourage all employees who are not yet using [Go Evo](#) to get the app and complete prior to entry into a Town facility or vehicle. You can use your home devices (tablet, laptop, cell-phone etc.) before you even leave your home that day. Using the app every day takes less than 30 seconds to complete as opposed to any manual active screening. Go EVO!

Town of Midland Active Screening Statistics (March 9 - March 23, 2021):

- 775 total users.
- Average of 61 users per day.



- To date, 4,737 clear screenings.



I have been exposed to someone who has recently tested positive for COVID-19, what should I do?

From the SMDHU: If you have been identified as a close contact, and have been informed by public health or by someone in your life who has tested positive it is very important that you read this [Order of the Medical Officer of Health](#) (from March 8, 2021) and take the following steps to stop the spread of COVID-19:

- Stay home and **self-isolate** for 14 days after your last contact with the person who tested positive for COVID-19.
- Only leave the house to get tested. It is recommended you seek testing within 7 days from your last exposure to the person who tested positive for COVID and then again on or after 10 days from your last exposure to them. For testing centre locations visit the [SMDHU website](#).
- Monitor yourself for **symptoms** of COVID-19. If symptoms develop, please get tested again, even if you were recently tested.
- If you do get tested you must still self-isolate while you wait for your results. Even if your test result is negative you **MUST** continue to self-isolate for the full 14 days.