



Media Release

August 12, 2021

Back-to-School Vaccine Clinics

Vaccine should be top of the to-do list in getting ready for back-to-school in September.

Vaccination remains the most effective way to prevent severe illness and complications from COVID-19 and its variants. All students age 12 and older are urged to get both first and second doses of the vaccine prior to returning to school in person in September.

To provide easy access to vaccines, mobile pop-up clinics will take place in high schools across Grey Bruce before the beginning of the school year. Clinics are drive-in, walk-in, bike-in; no appointment is needed. These clinics are geared towards students and their families, but are open to all.

Clinic dates/times and locations include:

- Tuesday August 17, 4:00 – 7:00pm
 - Peninsula Shores District School Parking Lot (Warton)
- Friday August 20, 4:00 – 7:00pm
 - Walkerton District Community School Parking Lot (Walkerton)
- Monday August 23, 4:00 – 7:00pm
 - Bruce Peninsula District School Parking Lot (Lion's Head)
- Tuesday August 24, 4:00 – 7:00pm
 - Grey Highlands Secondary School Parking Lot (Flesherton)
- Wednesday August 25, 4:00 – 7:00pm
 - For Sacred Heart High School Students and parents AT St. Teresa of Calcutta Parking Lot (Walkerton) (Due to construction)
- Friday August 27, **5:00 – 7:00pm** (note different time)
 - St. Mary's High School Front of School (Owen Sound)
- Monday August 30, 4:00 – 7:00pm
 - Georgian Bay Community School Parking Lot (Meaford)
- Tuesday August 31, 4:00 – 7:00pm
 - John Diefenbaker Senior School Parking Lot (Hanover)

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- Wednesday September 1, 4:00 – 7:00pm
 - Kincardine District Senior School Parking Lot (Kincardine)
- Thursday September 2, 4:00 – 7:00pm
 - Owen Sound District Secondary School Parking Lot (Owen Sound)
- Friday September 3, 2021, 4:00 – 7:00pm
 - Saugeen District Senior School Parking Lot (Port Elgin)

Thanks go out to the Saugeen Shores Fire Department who provided the mobile trailer to facilitate these clinics. Partnerships such as this with the Grey Bruce Health Unit help ensure we get the vaccine to as many people as possible in Grey and Bruce.

Poor weather will result in the cancellation of clinics with little notice. Please follow our social media accounts (Twitter: @GBPublicHealth, Facebook: @greybrucepublichealth) for up-to-date announcements and cancellations.

For More Information:

Dr. Ian Arra, MD MSc FRCPC ACPM ABPM

Medical Officer of Health and Chief Executive Officer

To arrange to speak with Dr. Arra, please contact Drew Ferguson at:

519-376-9420 or 1-800-263-3456 ext. 1269 or d.ferguson@publichealthgreybruce.on.ca



Media Release

August 13, 2021

Family Fun – Vax on the Run

In order to make getting the COVID-19 vaccine as easy as possible, vaccinations will be available at many family-friendly locations throughout Owen Sound, including at the Family Movie Nights, Harrison Park and Kelso Beach. All clinics are walk-in, no appointments are required.

Vaccination is the best way to keep a young family safe, especially since those under 12 are not yet able to get the vaccine. Parents and guardians should get their vaccine, to help keep the entire household safe.

Clinic dates/times and locations include:

- Saturday Aug 14, 10:00am – 1:00pm
 - Owen Sound, Harrison Park
- Thursday Aug 19, 6:00pm – 9:00pm
 - Owen Sound, Movie Night – near Farmers' Market
- Saturday Aug 21, 10:00am – 1:00pm
 - Owen Sound, Harrison Park – Summerfolk
- Monday Aug 23, 10:00am – 2:00pm
 - Owen Sound, Kelso Beach Splash Pad Area
- Tuesday Aug 24, 10:00am – 2:00pm
 - Owen Sound, Kelso Beach Splash Pad Area
- Thursday Aug 26, 6:00pm – 9:00pm
 - Owen Sound, Movie Night – near Farmers' Market

Poor weather may result in the cancellation of clinics with little notice. Please pay attention to Public Health social media (Twitter: @GBPublicHealth, Facebook: @greybrucepublichealth) for up-to-date announcements and cancellations.

There are multiple pop-up clinics across Grey Bruce throughout August. All clinics are walk-in/drive-in, no appointments needed. Clinics are held mornings, afternoons and evenings and are conveniently located along highways, at shopping centres, grocery stores, parks, and more. For a full schedule, please visit: [Vaccine Schedule](#)

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Media Release

August 18, 2021

COVID-19 Vaccine Eligibility Extended to All Born in 2009

To support a safe return to school and to ensure more children and youth benefit from the protection offered by the vaccine, the Grey Bruce Health Unit will provide the Pfizer vaccine to those born in 2009. The province has extended eligibility to all those born in 2009, no longer requiring waiting until their twelfth birthday.

Vaccine should be top of the to-do list to get ready for back-to-school in September.

Vaccination remains the best way to prevent severe illness and complications from COVID-19 and its variants. All eligible students, born 2009 or earlier, are urged to get both first and second doses of the vaccine prior to returning to school in September.

To provide easy access to vaccines, mobile and pop-up clinics will take place across Grey Bruce, including at all high schools, before the beginning of the school year. Clinics are drive-in, walk-in, bike-in; no appointment is needed.

For a complete list of clinics visit: [Vaccine Clinics](#)

Poor weather may result in the cancellation of clinics with little notice. Please follow our social media accounts (Twitter: @GBPublicHealth, Facebook: @greybrucepublichealth) for up-to-date announcements and cancellations.

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Media Release

August 31, 2021

Third Dose Vaccine for Certain Immunocompromised Patients

Following the direction of the Provincial government, the Grey Bruce Health Unit is working with partners to deliver 3rd dose COVID-19 vaccine to transplant recipients, patients with hematological cancers on active treatments, and recipients of an anti-CD20 agent.

These individuals may have a decreased immune response to COVID-19 vaccines compared to the general population, and may face increased risk of breakthrough infection for those who have already received two doses.

The third dose is based on the recommendation of the Chief Medical Officer of Health and health experts and will be provided to:

- Transplant recipients (including solid organ transplant and hematopoietic stem cell transplants)
- Patients with hematological cancers (examples include lymphoma, myeloma, leukemia) on active treatment (chemotherapy, targeted therapies, immunotherapy) for malignant hematologic disorders
- Recipients of an anti-CD20 agent (e.g. rituximab, ocrelizumab, ofatumumab)

A third dose will help to provide individuals in these groups with an improved immune response. Individuals in these groups are eligible to receive their third dose at a minimum of eight weeks following their second dose and will be contacted by their health care provider such as their primary care provider, specialist, or their hospital specialty program. Individuals unable to receive the vaccine from their providers can ask for a form from them indicating the patient's eligibility. The form can be taken to participating physicians, who will administer the vaccine.

Immunocompromised clients who are unable to access a third-dose vaccine from their healthcare provider may attend any of the vaccine clinics hosted by the Grey Bruce Health Unit. No appointment is necessary. **Clients must be eligible in the categories described above and must provide the written provincial documentation signed by their physician, including the physician's CPSO number. No other document or attestation will be accepted.** For a list of locations and times of clinics visit the Grey Bruce Health Unit [Vaccine Clinic Schedule](#).

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Media Release

August 29, 2021

Vaccine Clinics- August 30 – September 3

For the week of August 30 – September 3, the Grey Bruce Health Unit will hold vaccine clinics at the following locations and times:

Monday, August 30

Georgian Bay Community School, Meaford, 4:00pm - 7:00pm

Victoria Village, Meaford, 1:00pm - 3:00pm

Blue Mountains Community Health Centre, Thornbury, 9:00am - 11:00am

Tuesday, August 31

John Diefenbaker Senior School, Hanover, 4:00pm - 7:00pm

Keady Arena, Keady, 1:00pm - 3:00pm

Teeswater Town Hall, Teeswater, 2:00pm - 5:00pm

Bayshore Community Centre, Owen Sound, 10:00am - 2:00pm

Blue Mountains Community Health Centre, Thornbury, 9:00am - 11:00am

Blue Mountains Community Health Centre, Thornbury, 1:00pm – 4:00pm Back to

School, for children 12 and over by appointment only, at <https://www.tbmvaccines.ca/>

Wednesday, September 1

Kincardine District Senior School, Kincardine, 4:00pm - 7:00pm

Nuclear Innovation Institute, Port Elgin, 10:00am - 2:00pm

Blue Mountains Community Health Centre, Thornbury, 9:00am - 11:00am

Thursday, September 2

Owen Sound District Secondary School, Owen Sound, 4:00pm - 7:00pm

Blue Mountains Community Health Centre, Thornbury, 9:00am - 3:00pm

Friday, September 3

No clinics scheduled

All clinics are walk-in, bike-in, drive-in; no appointments necessary with the exception of Back to School clinic at the Blue Mountains Community Health Centre, Thornbury, Tuesday, Aug. 31, 1:00pm – 4:00pm; appointments required for children 12 and over at <https://www.tbmvaccines.ca/>. Clinic list is subject to change. For a current list of all clinics, please visit our weekly [Clinic Schedule](#). Clinics are subject to cancellation due to weather.

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Media Release

August 31, 2021

Third Dose Vaccine in High-Risk Congregate Settings

The Grey Bruce Health Unit is working with partners to deliver 3rd dose COVID-19 vaccine to those living in high-risk congregate settings including Long-Term Care and Retirement Homes.

A third dose of vaccine will re-invigorate the individual's immune response. Evidence shows that residents who live in long-term care homes are at a greater risk of infection due to living in a congregate setting and significant waning of the immune response after several months after receiving two COVID-19 vaccine doses compared to the general population. Administering a third dose to residents of high-risk congregate settings can help boost their immune response for improved protection against COVID-19. Third doses will be offered to these individuals within the home. The third dose can be administered at a minimum of five months following their second dose.

Providing the 3rd dose in early September, in these congregate settings, will also ensure the recommended minimum four-week interval between receiving the COVID-19 vaccine and the annual seasonal flu vaccine rolling out this fall.

For More Information:

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Recommendations for Establishing a COVID-19 Workplace Vaccination Policy



Employers have an obligation to maintain a safe work environment for their workers. To help reduce the risk of COVID-19 transmission, all employers should address the need for a workplace vaccination policy. A workplace vaccination policy is an important measure employers can implement to protect their workers and the public.

Promoting vaccine uptake is important to help reduce COVID-19 workplace outbreaks and build confidence for a safer return to work. The COVID-19 vaccine is the best way to protect your workplace from the risks of COVID-19. It is safe and highly effective at reducing virus spread and protecting against serious illness.

Workplaces can help encourage vaccination by creating a supportive environment that makes it easier for workers to get vaccinated, and by providing information from trusted sources. COVID-19 vaccination provides an important layer of protection for workers, their families and the community.

Your workplace policy should be in writing and adhere to the Occupational Health and Safety Act, the Ontario Human Rights Code and privacy laws.

PLEASE NOTE: The information provided in this document does not contain legal advice and should not be relied on or treated as legal advice. Those for whom these recommendations are intended should seek their own legal advice to address their specific workplace circumstances.

Developing a Workplace Vaccination Policy

Assess your workplace risk of COVID-19 transmission. For example:

- How many workers are part of your workforce?
- Can workers keep at least two metres apart while performing their work?

- Are there circumstances in which masks can or must be removed in the context of workplace activities? (This includes workers, customers/patrons and members of the public entering the workplace.)
- Are workers required to be in close contact with others, at the workplace or in the community while performing their work?
- How long and how often are workers in close contact with other workers, customers/patrons or the public?
- Does your workplace have: physical barriers when workers cannot keep distance from each other, customers/patrons or the public; good ventilation; and/or personal protective equipment (PPE) to protect workers?
- Do you have workers who may be at risk for severe illness from COVID-19? Some people may have reduced immunity due to age, pre-existing health conditions or medical treatments.
- Is your workplace able to offer alternative work for people who require accommodation, for example remote work?

Key Components in a Vaccination Policy

1. Identify the scope and purpose.

- Explain purpose of the policy including the risks of COVID-19. Vaccination against COVID-19 is one of the best ways to protect workers who work in a location with common areas and/or where workers can have contact with other workers, customers/patrons or the public. The Delta variant of the coronavirus is more contagious, with greater risk for severe illness and hospitalization.
- Explain who the policy applies to. Will the policy apply to all workers (i.e., not just employees but also contractors (including staff from 3rd party agencies), volunteers, students etc.)? Is there a separate policy for customers/patrons?
- Explain that the policy may change as the status of the pandemic changes and/or legislation or public health advice changes.
- Have a clear communication plan to inform workers about the policy.

2. List action steps workers must take.

When determined by the employer to be reasonably necessary to prevent the spread of COVID-19 in the workplace or in the community while performing their work, workplace policies should require workers to provide proof of vaccination, with vaccines approved by Health Canada or the World Health Organization. Alternatively, workers who do not provide proof of vaccination may need to, for example:

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- Indicate that they have a medical exemption, including if the reasons are temporary or permanent. The medical exemption should be written by a licensed doctor or nurse practitioner and does not need to include the reason for the exemption.
- Complete a vaccination education course, with a signed declaration stating that they have reviewed and understood the content. The vaccination education course should include information on:
 - How the COVID-19 vaccines work
 - Vaccine safety related to the development of the COVID-19 vaccines
 - The benefits of vaccination against COVID-19
 - Risks of not being vaccinated against COVID-19
 - Possible side effects of COVID-19 vaccination

3. Set deadlines for when the actions must be taken.

Specify a reasonable date when workers must demonstrate compliance with various elements of the workplace policy.

4. List available supports for vaccination.

Demonstrate your commitment to supporting workers to get vaccinated. Ways to support workers to get vaccinated include:

- Providing vaccine information from credible sources or translated resources
- Supporting vaccine champions to initiate conversations with their peers
- Providing paid leave to get vaccinated
- Reminding workers that they are entitled to up to three paid sick days, if they have side effects from the vaccine
- Providing transportation support to get vaccinated

5. Provisions for Unvaccinated Workers

Your policy should list alternative options for workers who decline to get vaccinated for reasons protected by Ontario's Human Rights Code, including those unable to complete their vaccination series for medical reasons. The appropriate response(s) may depend on the work of the worker, the type of workplace and consideration of the duty to accommodate (if applicable). Some options to consider include:

- Use of additional PPE, worker relocation and modified work or reassignments.

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- In the event of a COVID-19 outbreak, unvaccinated and partially vaccinated workers (who have only received one dose of a two-dose COVID-19 vaccine series) should not be permitted to work in the outbreak area. Workers without vaccination records should be assumed to be unvaccinated.
- If reassignment is not possible, consider other options including whether unvaccinated workers should receive paid or unpaid leave or use vacation days until it is safe for them to return to the workplace.

6. Non-Compliance

Outline the potential consequences for workers who do not fulfill the requirements of the policy.

7. Privacy considerations

The policy should specify how individual vaccination status of employees will be used by employers to mitigate the health-related risks of COVID-19.

Information about workers' vaccination information must be protected in accordance with applicable privacy legislation. Knowing your workers' vaccination status may be important to help you take appropriate action quickly, in the event of COVID-19 cases in your workplace, to protect workers, their families, customers/patrons and the general public. This may include sharing that information with public health officials.

When collecting information about a worker's vaccination status:

- Identify ways to safeguard workers' personal health information
- Limit information collected to what is reasonably necessary, e.g., copy of the proof of
- vaccination for each dose
- Keep worker vaccination information separate from their personnel file
- Ensure personal health/vaccination information is kept in a secure manner and only used when required

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Monday to Friday 8:30 A.M.- 4:30 P.M.

8. Staff contact

Identify who at your organization staff should contact with questions about the policy, to request accommodation, or for more information about how to comply with the policy. The policy should also indicate the person to whom workers should provide proof of vaccination.

9. Continued adherence to COVID-19 prevention measures

Vaccination does not replace the need for strict adherence to established COVID-19 public health measures. Employers must continue to implement all COVID-19 prevention measures for their sector outlined in provincial guidelines and Grey Bruce Health Unit guidance including, but not limited to: screening, physical distancing, wearing of masks and eye protection, hand hygiene, infection prevention and control, and a COVID-19 safety plan.

Additional Resources:

Available on the Grey Bruce Health Unit's website at:

<https://www.publichealthgreybruce.on.ca/COVID-19/Workplaces>