



# Media Release

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October 3, 2021

## **GBHU Vaccine Clinics October 4 – October 8**

For the week of October 4 – October 8, the Grey Bruce Health Unit will hold vaccine clinics at the following locations and times:

### **Monday, October 4**

Lucknow Community Centre, 4:00pm - 6:00pm

### **Tuesday, October 5**

No clinics scheduled

### **Wednesday, October 6**

Shallow Lake Community Centre, 3:00pm – 6:00pm

### **Thursday, October 7**

Grey Bruce Health Unit, Owen Sound, 2:00pm – 5:00pm

### **Friday, October 8**

No clinics scheduled

All clinics are walk-in, bike-in, drive-in; no appointments necessary. Clinic list is subject to change. **Third dose will be provided to those eligible with supporting documentation signed by physician, including CPSO#.** For a current list of all clinics, please visit our weekly [Clinic Schedule](#). Clinics are subject to cancellation due to weather.

**COVID-19 vaccine have be offered to students in Grade 7 to 12 throughout September at local schools.**

### **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  
[AdminMedicalOfficer@publichealthgreybruce.on.ca](mailto:AdminMedicalOfficer@publichealthgreybruce.on.ca)  
519-376-9420 or 1-800-263-3456 ext. 3940

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1-800-263-3456

Fax 519-376-0605



# Media Release

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October 5, 2021

## Schools and Childcare Settings - Stay Home, Screening and Isolation Reminder

In order to help prevent a rise in COVID-19 infections, it is important that we all continue to do our part to mitigate the potential spread of the virus. This includes screening, staying home if sick, being tested if you have COVID symptoms, and of course, getting vaccinated as soon as possible and eligible.

In order to reduce the spread of COVID-19, everyone must follow the provincial rules:

- You must screen each day before work and school
  - [COVID-19 school screening \(ontario.ca\)](https://www.ontario.ca/covid/school-screening)
  - [COVID-19 worker and employee screening \(ontario.ca\)](https://www.ontario.ca/covid/worker-screening)
- You must stay home if you have COVID-19 symptoms or are waiting for test results after experiencing symptoms.
- Everyone in your household (**unless they are fully vaccinated**) must also stay home until you get a negative COVID-19 test result, or you are cleared by public health, or you are diagnosed with another illness.
  - When there is someone in the household that has COVID-19 symptoms, parents must not send unvaccinated children that are symptom-free to childcare, school or youth activities
- Get a COVID-19 test at an Assessment Centre (not a rapid antigen test) if you have symptoms of COVID-19 or are a contact of a known COVID-19 case.
- Upon returning to school or childcare, you must complete the relevant attestation form, declaring that you have met the requirements to return safely.
  - [Attestation For Return to School or Child Care Following Illness](#)

Everyone who is eligible should be fully vaccinated as soon as possible. For an up to date vaccine clinic schedule and for more information about the COVID-19 vaccines in Grey and Bruce, please visit:

- [COVID-19 Vaccines \(publichealthgreybruce.on.ca\)](https://publichealthgreybruce.on.ca/covid-19-vaccines)
- [Weekly Vaccine Schedule Oct 4 to Oct 17 \(publichealthgreybruce.on.ca\)](https://publichealthgreybruce.on.ca/weekly-vaccine-schedule)

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“Individuals that are unvaccinated are of the most susceptible to be infected with and transmit COVID-19 to others,” states Dr. Ian Arra, Grey Bruce Medical Officer of Health, “This becomes more significant for parents or guardians who can transmit the virus to their non-eligible and unvaccinated younger household and family members attending childcare and schools”.

For additional Information, please visit:

- [School and Childcare Screening Cheat Sheet](#)
- [Schools and Childcare Centres \(publichealthgreybruce.on.ca\)](#)
- [COVID-19: Stop the spread | ontario.ca](#)
- [COVID-19: health and safety measures at schools | ontario.ca](#)
- [COVID-19: health and safety measures for child care | ontario.ca](#)

**For More Information:**

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# Media Release

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October 8, 2021

## COVID-19 Testing in Grey Bruce – Rapid Antigen Testing and PCR testing

It was brought to our attention that some individuals with symptoms are using the Rapid Antigen Testing to check for diagnosis rather than booking an appointment at the local Assessment Testing Centre and isolating until the results are back. The Grey Bruce Health Unit would like to remind the community, and emphasize that our recommendations are unchanged.

Providing access to rapid antigen testing is a helpful tool in responding to the emergency. It is however, a screening test that needs to be used under specific circumstances.

The Rapid Antigen Test must **NOT** be used as a diagnostic tool for testing people with symptoms as it has a high failure rate. They are **NOT** reliable in confirming a positive or negative result in people with symptoms. If you have a negative rapid antigen test, it does not provide a reliable and clear indication that you do not have COVID-19, hence, the test will give FALSE reassurances. These test will not be accepted by Public Health as a clearance test to return to school, work, or to confirm and/or refute a diagnosis of COVID-19.

**The inappropriate usage of these tests can give a false assurance, delayed diagnosis and an associated increase in the risk of transmission among contacts and the community in general.** If you have COVID-19 symptoms or you have been identified by Public Health as a high-risk contact of a known COVID-19 case, or you have been instructed to test by Public Health for any other reason, please isolate and immediately book an appointment with the Assessment/Testing Centre closest to you.

### For More Information:

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# Message from the MOH

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October 8, 2021

## Seasonal Celebrations

The year has come full circle, and here we are again, it is time to break bread in celebration of our many varying traditions in Canada. Depending on our celebratory customs, this may be a time to reflect and acknowledge all of which we are thankful.

Let us continue to be thankful for some of the most valuable things we hold dear in life, family, friends, good health and wellbeing. Let us work at creating an equitable society, free from prejudice and oppression. We have so much to be thankful for, and I hope we can focus on these things as much as possible this season!

In celebrating, the good things and recognizing the areas that we as individuals and society need to improve on, let us celebrate and reflect responsibly. One main strategy that we can all employ to ensure we keep ourselves, friends, and family as safe as possible is by following COVID-19 precautions and getting vaccinated as soon as possible.

While we may want to see this pandemic in the rear view mirror, it is time for us to remain diligent as we, in Public Health, help to manage the various variants circulating in Ontario. While our vaccine coverage continues to climb, many of our families remain unprotected; hence, we need to adhere to Public Health recommendations, especially during times that we gather with friends and family.

So please, celebrate, and stay socially connected. Here are recommendations to help you do so safely:

### **If you are hosting a gathering, including Thanksgiving dinner, for Diwali, etc....**

You may have a gathering with people you don't live with. However, it is important to remember that knowing someone does not reduce the risk of transmitting COVID-19. Keep following good public health practises.

### **If you choose to host an in-person gathering:**

- Do not exceed the gathering limit of 25 people indoors and 100 people outdoors.

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- You should have the fewest number of people possible at your party or gathering and use outdoor spaces whenever possible.
- Provide all the necessary supplies, including hand sanitizer, soap and water.
- Open windows, if possible. (if an indoor celebration is planned)
- Clean and disinfect high-touch surfaces.
- Ask guests to not attend if they have symptoms, even if they are mild.
- Make a list of guests attending in case public health needs it for contact tracing.
- Remind people of public health guidance to follow during the event.
- If you choose to serve food or drinks at your party, you should:
  - Wash your hands before and frequently during preparation and serving; and;
  - Have everyone wash their hands before and after eating.

**If you choose to attend an in-person gathering:**

- You should not attend if you have any symptoms, even if they are mild.
- Wash your hands or use hand sanitizer regularly throughout the event.
- Consider participating virtually or not attending the event if you are immunocompromised or at higher risk of severe disease and/or exposure to COVID-19.

As we move through this season of joy and thanks, let's continue to be kind and thoughtful of all, and reach out a helping hand to those in need, and let's continue to make small sacrifices for a bit longer to ensure we can all enjoy a safe and happy season full of happiness and joy.

From my family to yours,

Dr. Ian Arra, Grey Bruce Medical Officer of Health.

**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:

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# Media Release

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October 12, 2021

## COVID-19 Vaccine Rollout Progress In Grey Bruce

The Grey Bruce Health Unit is happy to announce that more than 80% of the eligible population in Grey Bruce have been immunized with at least two doses of the COVID-19 vaccine, and 84.5% received one dose.

Also, 3<sup>rd</sup> doses of the COVID-19 vaccine have been administered to all eligible and consenting residents within 26 Long-Term Care and high risk retirement homes in Grey and Bruce.

The Grey Bruce Health Unit will continue its third dose campaign by immunizing, as per the recent Ministry of Health direction, consenting residents in remaining retirement homes, and consenting residents in high-risk senior congregate settings.

In addition, The Grey Bruce Health Unit's Vaccine Team has completed initial COVID-19 vaccine clinics and has scheduled a second round of COVID-19 vaccine clinics (at least 28 days apart) in all schools in Grey and Bruce for all eligible and consenting staff and students. Uptake, to date, has been noted in students who may not have had an opportunity to receive the vaccine elsewhere – due to transportation issues, parental concerns and access.

These milestones would not have been possible without the collaboration of the local school boards and Long-Term Care and Retirement Homes. In addition, the efforts of the residents of Grey and Bruce to get their vaccine has allowed these milestones to be possible.

For up to date information on vaccine status in Grey and Bruce, please visit the Grey Bruce Health Unit's vaccine page at:

[COVID-19 Vaccines \(publichealthgreybruce.on.ca\)](https://publichealthgreybruce.on.ca)

For an up to date Grey Bruce Health Unit schedule of public vaccine clinics, please review the schedule at:

[Weekly Vaccine Schedule Oct 4 to Oct 17 \(publichealthgreybruce.on.ca\)](https://publichealthgreybruce.on.ca)

### For More Information:

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Medical Officer of Health and Chief Executive Officer

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# Media Release

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October 12, 2021

## School Cohort COVID-19 Testing Clinic

In collaboration with the Town of Saugeen Shores, the Grey Bruce Health Unit is setting up a COVID-19 field-testing clinic within the community. The clinic will provide timely and equitable testing to support families impacted by school cohort dismissals (one in Saugeen District Senior School and one in Port Elgin Saugeen Central School).

The Clinic will be in Port Elgin in the Plex Parking Lot, at 600 Tomlinson Drive, Port Elgin ON. The clinic is taking place on Wednesday, **October 13th 2021**, from 9am to noon.

- 9am-10am the effected cohorts from Port Elgin Saugeen Central School
- 10am-11am the effected cohort from Saugeen District Senior School.

The Grey Bruce Health Unit School Health Team have contacted over 120 individuals within the dismissed cohorts. They have received multiple correspondence from the schools to alert them to this clinic based on the school's email and texting system to parents and guardians.

Those not considered at risk are not to attend these testing clinics. Public Health has contacted everyone requiring testing.

As a reminder, in order to reduce the spread of COVID-19, everyone must follow the provincial rules:

- You must screen each day before work and school
  - [COVID-19 school screening \(ontario.ca\)](https://www.ontario.ca/covid-19-school-screening)
  - [COVID-19 worker and employee screening \(ontario.ca\)](https://www.ontario.ca/covid-19-worker-and-employee-screening)
- You must stay home if you have COVID-19 symptoms or are waiting for test results after experiencing symptoms.
- Everyone in your household (**unless they are fully vaccinated**) must also stay home until you get a negative COVID-19 test result, or you are cleared by public health, or you are diagnosed with another illness.
  - When there is someone in the household that has COVID-19 symptoms, parents must not send unvaccinated children that are symptom-free to childcare, school or youth activities

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- Get a COVID-19 test at an Assessment Centre (not a rapid antigen test) if you have symptoms of COVID-19 or are a contact of a known COVID-19 case.
- Upon returning to school or childcare, you must complete the relevant attestation form, declaring that you have met the requirements to return safely.
  - [Attestation For Return to School or Child Care Following Illness](#)
- Even if you pass the COVID-19 screening tool, anyone with any illness should refrain from attending work or school.

**For More Information:**

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