

Media Release

April 14, 2022

GBHU holding community COVID-19 vaccine clinics in April

The Grey Bruce Health Unit is pleased to announce it will be holding four community COVID-19 vaccine clinics this month as part of its ongoing and focused efforts to support residents throughout the area in getting up to date on the potentially life-saving vaccinations.

"Staying up to date – including getting all booster doses when eligible – remains the best defence against severe illness, hospitalization and death as a result of the virus, especially for people vulnerable to complications and it also helps to reduce community transmission," says Grey-Bruce Medical Officer of Health Dr. Ian Arra.

Public health will continue to hold community vaccine clinics when needed throughout the spring and summer and will update the community regularly as new dates are added.

We will also continue to support pharmacy and primary care with vaccine rollout, cold chain and Infection Prevention and Control (IPAC).

The April clinics, set to begin following the Easter long weekend, will be held in the parts of Grey-Bruce with lower vaccination rates.

The clinics are scheduled for:

- April 19, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., Durham Community Centre, 451 Saddler St. W.;
- April 21, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., Ripley-Huron Community Centre, 17 Queen St.;
- April 26, noon to 4 p.m., Walkerton Community Centre, 290 Durham St. W.;
- April 28, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., Keady Community Centre, 116931 Grey Rd 3.

The <u>clinics</u> come after the Ontario government announced last week that it is <u>expanding</u> <u>eligibility</u> for fourth doses of the COVID-19 vaccine to include individuals aged 60 and over as well as First Nation, Inuit and Métis individuals and their non-Indigenous household members aged 18 and over.

Residents can also receive their first and second doses and first boosters of the vaccine at the clinics. Information on vaccine eligibility is available <u>here</u>.

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101 17th Street East, Owen Sound, Ontario N4K 0A5 www.publichealthgreybruce.on.ca

Appointments are encouraged, but walk-ins will be welcome.

Appointments can be booked through the <u>COVID-19 vaccination portal</u> or by calling the Provincial Vaccine Contact Centre at 1-833-943-3900. Vaccines are also available through Indigenous-led vaccination clinics, <u>participating pharmacies</u> and participating primary care settings.

For More Information:

To connect with the medical officer of health or the program manager, please contact: Denis Langlois, Communications Co-ordinator, Grey Bruce Health Unit, 519-376-9420 or 1-800-263-3456 ext. 1315, <u>Communications@publichealthgreybruce.on.ca</u>



April 19, 2022

Test your well water this spring

With the arrival of warmer temperatures, the Grey Bruce Health Unit is encouraging residents on private drinking water systems to get their water tested.

Spring is an ideal time to test since the warmer weather can produce flooding and spring-melt conditions and high groundwater and surface water can contaminate private drinking water systems.

All households who draw their drinking water from private wells, sand-point or surface water can have it tested for bacterial contamination free of charge.

"The prevention of sickness caused by drinking contaminated water is a core aspect of Public Health. It is preventable, but the first step is knowing that the contamination exists," says Grey Bruce Health Unit program manager Andrew Barton.

"I recommend that anyone who uses a private water supply take advantage of the free testing service provided through the Grey Bruce Health Unit."

Public Health Ontario laboratories test for bacterial indicators of contamination, E. coli and total coliforms, which can make people sick and can even be fatal.

The testing program is not for people on municipal water systems.

If a test comes back with an adverse sample result, residents can call the Grey Bruce Health Unit for assistance. There are many ways to deal with water contamination to ensure your family is protected.

Visit the Grey Bruce Health Unit website for a list of water testing kit <u>pick-up and drop-off locations</u> and for more <u>information</u>.

Attachment: Photo of well water testing kit.

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