

Key Messages Week of May 3, 2021

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1. Statistics on progress of vaccinations in Niagara is updated daily on our web site: [COVID-19 Vaccinations Administered - Niagara Region, Ontario](#)
2. Frequently asked questions about the vaccine and vaccine eligibility are updated almost daily on our web site, and can help answer questions for members of the public: [Frequently Asked Questions about the COVID-19 Vaccine - Niagara Region, Ontario](#)
3. Currently, there are appointments at the following vaccine clinics in Niagara:
 - a. Leisureplex, Fort Erie (May 9-10)
 - b. Seymour-Hannah Arena, St. Catharines (May 13-29)
 - c. Community Centre, NOTL (May 15-16)
 - d. Vale Centre, Port Colborne (May 15, 23, 26-27)
 - e. Meridian Community Centre, Pelham (May 16-22)
 - f. Community Centre, West Lincoln (May 24-25, 28)
 - g. MacBain Community Centre, Niagara Falls (May 29-30)

A schedule of clinics operated by Public Health can be found here: <https://niagararegion.ca/health/covid-19/vaccination/clinic-schedule.aspx>

4. There are sometimes cancellations and changes with clinic bookings. If someone wants an earlier date or a different location which is full, please check the system periodically to see if other locations have opened up.
5. Anyone eligible can register for vaccination at

<https://covid-19.ontario.ca/book-vaccine/>

If they run into errors or they do not have a health card, they should call 1-888-999-6488 for assistance. Please do not have them call Niagara Region Public Health since we do not operate the registration system and likely cannot help them.

6. Eligibility for vaccination is rapidly changing over the next few weeks, with all adults becoming eligible to book an appointment by the end of the month. The following table outlines timelines, and links to more details as appropriate.

Eligibility group	Week of April 26	Week of May 3	Week of May 10	Week of May 17	Week of May 24
Provincial age band	April 30: 55 and older	May 6: 50 and older	40 and older	30 and older	18 and older
Hotspot age band	April 27: 45 and older	May 3: 18 and older	-	-	-
Health conditions	Highest-risk health conditions continues	May 6: High-risk health conditions	At-risk health conditions	-	-
Cannot work from home	April 29: licensed childcare workers	May 6: Group 1	Group 2	-	-

The latest information can be found on the provincial web site: [Ontario's COVID-19 vaccination plan | COVID-19 \(coronavirus\) in Ontario](#)

Or on Public Health's web site: [Eligibility and Booking your Vaccine Appointment - Niagara Region, Ontario](#)

7. As persons become eligible for vaccination due to a health condition, one essential caregiver is also eligible for vaccination. Both should book their appointment together by calling the provincial call centre at 1-888-999-6488.
8. If there are questions around vaccine eligibility that are not addressed by the above resources, residents can e-mail vaccineeligibility@niagararegion.ca for further advice.
9. In addition to mass clinics, there are 28 primary care providers and approximately 40 pharmacies offering vaccinations in Niagara. One can look up participating pharmacies at <https://covid-19.ontario.ca/vaccine-locations>.

Due to a slowdown in supply of AstraZeneca vaccine, primary care and pharmacies do not have large quantities of vaccine, unfortunately.

10. Public Health is attempting to balance the imperative that we vaccinate as quickly as possible (run large clinics) while also ensuring local access to vaccination in each community (communities where locations will accommodate only smaller clinics).

Public Health continues to run large clinics in different parts of the region to ensure vaccine is administered in large numbers, while ensuring reasonable local access. As details on vaccine supply become clearer, Public Health is layering on additional smaller clinics in communities farthest from the large clinics, such as upcoming clinics in Fort Erie and NOTL.

11. Many employers are interested in getting their staff vaccinated. Some are requesting on-site clinics. On-site clinics are challenging to organize given the requirements for sufficient space, flow of clients, and temperature control amongst other factors. Where a clinic can be held, usually it will not achieve the same volume as a mass immunization clinic, meaning that the employer-based clinic will come at the cost of slower vaccination of the rest of the population.

Rather than holding a clinic on-site at a workplace, Public Health recommends employers work with us to dedicate time at a clinic for their workplace. Employees can then be bussed to the clinic allowing the throughput of a mass vaccination clinics to still be achieved, while allowing an employer to get their entire staff vaccinated in one go. Peel Region has found this approach to have worked much better for them than holding on-site workplace clinics.

Even without a dedicated clinic, Public Health also generally encourages employers to promote the importance of their employees getting vaccinated, and provide their staff with time off from work so that they do not have barriers to getting their shot.

12. Public Health and Niagara Health continue to collaborate to ensure all vaccine received is used up within one week of the weekly vaccine shipment. Niagara does not keep significant amounts of vaccine in freezers for future use since there is sufficient demand to ensure that all Public Health clinics are fully booked.