



MEDIA RELEASE

For Immediate Release

May 2, 2021

Hamilton's COVID-19 vaccination program expansion includes individuals aged 18+ living in community "hot spots"

HAMILTON, ON – The Hamilton healthcare partners continue to make progress in vaccinating members of the community who fall into Phases 1 & 2 of the Province's COVID-19 Vaccination Framework. We are pleased to announce that to date, we have administered approximately 189,044 doses of COVID-19 vaccine – with 34.1% of eligible Hamiltonians receiving a vaccine to date.

In order to vaccinate those in our community who live in neighbourhoods that have been disproportionately impacted by COVID-19, effective Monday, May 3, 2021, those individuals who are **ages 18+ and live in "hot spot" communities in Hamilton** as identified by the Provincial Government and Hamilton Public Health Services, **are eligible to book an appointment for vaccination**. This eligible population can receive a vaccine at any of the city's large-scale or mobile pop-up vaccination clinics on a by-appointment only basis, walk-ins are not permitted. Proof of address must be shown when arriving for an appointment.

The postal codes that are currently eligible for those adults aged 18+ are as follows: L9C, L8W, L8L, L8N, L9K.

- Members of the public, who are **ages 18+ and live** in the eligible postal codes **L9C and L8W** can book an appointment online using the Provincial booking portal found at www.hamilton.ca/VaccineBooking for a large-scale clinic.
- Members of the public, who are **ages 18+ and live** in the eligible postal codes **L9C, L8W, L8L, L8N and L9K** can call the Public Health Services COVID-19 Hotline at 905-974-9848, option 7 for a vaccination appointment at a large-scale or mobile pop-up clinic.

Booking an appointment at a large-scale clinic. Members of the public can access the Provincial online booking portal found at www.hamilton.ca/VaccineBooking. For those who do not have access to the internet or a computer, or do not have a valid Ontario photo health card, please call the Public Health Services COVID-19 Hotline at 905-974-9848, option 7 to book an appointment. **Due to potential call volumes expected at the call centre, the City of Hamilton encourages everyone to self-register online if able to so, it's the quickest process to get an appointment.** The

hotline is trying to focus on those without health cards and those without computer access. These are all by-appointment only clinics, walk-ins are not permitted.

Booking an appointment at a mobile pop-up clinic. A list of mobile pop-up clinics can be found by visiting www.hamilton.ca/VaccineBooking. Members of the public can call the Public Health Services COVID-19 Hotline at 905-974-9848, option 7. **Due to potential call volumes expected at the call centre, we ask that those who are calling for an appointment are patient and call back if the lines are busy.** These are all by-appointment only clinics, walk-ins are not permitted.

In alignment with Provincial direction, **beginning Thursday, May 6, 2021, at 8 a.m.** the following groups will be eligible to book a COVID-19 vaccine appointment:

- Individuals turning 50 and over in 2021
- Individuals with high-risk health conditions
- People who cannot work from home who fall under Group One (including remaining elementary and secondary school workers)

Appointments for vaccination can be booked through the provincial online booking system that can be found at www.hamilton.ca/VaccineBooking, by calling the Provincial call centre at 1-888,999-6488 or by calling the Public Health Services COVID-19 Hotline at 905-974-9848, option 7 for members of the public without health cards, those without computer access or for those who would like an appointment at a mobile pop-up clinic.

In addition, priority populations who have been only able to book via the provincial call centre will now also be able to book online, including individuals with the highest risk health conditions, child care workers in licenced child care settings and education workers who provide direct support to students with special education needs.

Public Health Services recommends that everyone who is eligible for a vaccination receive the first vaccine that is available to them. We need to work together to reduce the spread of COVID-19 in our community, to reserve healthcare and hospital capacity and to protect vulnerable populations.

QUICK FACTS

- Vaccine administration rates may differ based on local context.
- Second doses for the COVID-19 vaccine have been extended to a 16-week interval by the Provincial Government.
- Information regarding registration, booking, and sequencing will be available on the COVID-19 Vaccines section of the City's website at www.hamilton.ca/COVIDvaccines.
- Vaccination phasing and sequencing will continue to be released for additional categories as per the direction of the provincial government.
- All vaccination planning is based on and contingent on available COVID-19 vaccine supply.

- It is vital that members of the public, even those who have been vaccinated, ensure that public health measures still be practiced until it is safe and said to be safe by the health professionals in all levels of government. Public health measures include:
 - stay home if you are feeling unwell
 - get tested for COVID-19 if you have symptoms or have been in close contact with a confirmed positive case of COVID-19
 - limit gatherings to only members of your immediate household
 - maintain a physical distance of at least 6 feet or 2 meters from others outside of your immediate household
 - wear a mask or face covering indoors and outdoors when not able to maintain physical distancing
 - wash hands frequently

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- Read more about [Ontario's COVID vaccination program](#).
- www.hamilton.ca/COVIDvaccines
- www.hamilton.ca/coronavirus
- <https://covid-19.ontario.ca>
- Public Health Services' COVID-19 Hotline: 905-974-9848 or phscovid19@hamilton.ca