

# RCD COVID-19 Vaccine Communications Committee

## For Immediate Release

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(Pembroke, Ontario, 9:00 a.m., May 11, 2021)

### **COVID-19 Vaccine Appointment Eligibility Expanding to Include New Groups**

Renfrew County and District Health Unit (RCDHU) continues to expand COVID-19 vaccination appointments in-line with provincial eligibility groups.

**Effective May 11, 2021, at 8:00 a.m.**, other eligibility groups will further expand to include:

- Residents with at-risk health conditions such as: Immune deficiencies and autoimmune disorders, Stroke and cerebrovascular disease, Dementia, Diabetes, Liver disease, All other cancers, Respiratory diseases, such as asthma, bronchitis, pneumonia, pleurisy, Spleen problems, such as asplenia, Heart disease, Hypertension with end organ damage, Diagnosed mental disorder, Substance use disorders, Sickle cell disease, Thalassemia, Immunocompromising health conditions, and Other disabilities requiring direct support care in the community.
- Essential and critical retail workers (including grocery, foodbank, pharmacy, ServiceOntario, ServiceCanada, Passport Canada, wholesalers and general goods, restaurant, LCBO workers).
- Workers in manufacturing industries directly involved in supporting the COVID-19 response, construction (including infrastructure) and other essential businesses and services where facilities are at heightened risk for COVID-19 outbreaks and spread.
- Social workers and social services staff who provide in-person client services (including youth justice workers, Ontario Works and Ontario Disability Support Program case workers).
- Courts and justice system workers (including probation and parole workers)
- Transportation, warehousing and distribution workers (including public transit workers, truck drivers supporting essential services, marine and rail cargo and maintenance, highway maintenance).
- Electricity (including system operations, generation, transmission, distribution and storage workers).
- Communications infrastructure workers (including cellular, satellite, landline, internet, public safety radio).
- Water and wastewater management workers.

- Financial services workers (bank branch staff).
- Veterinarians and veterinary teams.
- Waste management workers.
- Oil and petroleum workers (including petroleum refineries, crude oil and petroleum storage, transmission and distribution, retail sale of fuel).
- Natural gas and propane gas workers (including compression, storage, transmission and distribution of natural gas and propane).
- Mine workers (including those needed to ensure the continued operation of active mines).
- Uranium processing workers (those working in the refining and conversion of uranium and fabrication of fuel for nuclear power plants).

**Effective Thursday, May 13, 2021, at 8:00 a.m.**, eligibility will further expand to include residents in the general population born between 1972 and 1981 (40 to 49 years of age).

Residents are being asked to please register online as this is the fastest way. Individuals are encouraged to ask a family member or friend to assist if they are unable to book online themselves. Please **book only one appointment per person** to ensure that appointments are available to other eligible individuals. **If you book an appointment, please keep it.** If it is critical to change your appointment, **please cancel through the link in the email** you received confirming your appointment.

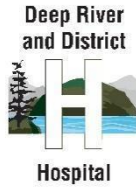
**ONLY** if a person is unable to register online, they can call RCDHU at 613-735-9724 or 1-800-267-1097, Ext. 200. Residents are asked to leave one message with their name and phone number, and someone will return their call as soon as possible.

People should contact their primary care provider if they have questions about their eligibility and/or personal health status before they receive the vaccine. Alternatively, those without a primary care provider can contact the Renfrew County Virtual Triage and Assessment Centre (VTAC) (1-844-727-6404) to consult with a family physician.

For a full list of those who are currently eligible to book appointments for COVID-19 vaccinations, residents should visit the [COVID-19 Vaccine Eligibility List](#). For details specific to vaccination registration and appointments (i.e., what you need to bring), visit the [COVID-19 Vaccination Appointment Checklist](#).

For more information, visit RCDHU's website at <https://www.rcdhu.com/novel-coronavirus-covid-19-2/> or call 613-732-3629 or 1-800-267-1097.

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