

To Primary Care Providers in Grey-Bruce,

Grey Bruce Public Health will be collaborating with Primary Care Providers and pharmacies to make it as convenient as possible for people to receive COVID-19 and influenza vaccines this fall/winter.

Public Health will be holding COVID-19/flu vaccine clinics this fall. The clinics will prioritize vaccinating children 12 and under as most pharmacies are vaccinating only individuals aged 12 and up. GBPH will also hold community and outreach clinics to vaccinate high-risk individuals and residents who face barriers to getting vaccinated.

A schedule of clinics, which will continue to be updated, is available at this link: [GBPH calendar](#).

**Grey Bruce Public Health is asking Primary Care Providers to assist in the collective goal of ensuring the COVID-19 and influenza vaccines are available and accessible to as many people as possible by offering and providing the vaccines to their rostered patients.**

Family Health Teams and practices can further assist by making the vaccines available to non-rostered patients (unattached populations).

Recently, GBPH asked Primary Care Providers to respond to a survey about fall vaccination plans. Thank you for participating! As a follow-up, Public Health is asking providers to let us know if you are planning to offer COVID-19 and/or influenza vaccines to only rostered patients or non-rostered patients as well. Please answer this [single-question survey](#) to assist us in gathering this information, which will be used to develop a map of where residents can receive COVID-19/flu vaccines in Grey-Bruce.

Grey Bruce Public Health will be inviting Family Health Teams and other parties to provide input on facilitating vaccine coverage in the next few weeks.

The Ministry of Health is rolling out both its COVID-19 and influenza vaccine programs at the same time.

Individuals aged six months and older are considered up to date on COVID-19 vaccines if they receive a dose this fall. The flu vaccine is also recommended for individuals aged six months and older. Individuals aged six months and older can receive a COVID-19 vaccine at the same time as or at any time before or after the flu shot.

***A healthier future for all.***

Immunization against COVID-19 and flu is particularly important for:

- Adults aged 65 and older;
- Residents of long-term care homes and other congregate living settings;
- Individuals with [underlying medical conditions](#);
- Individuals who are pregnant;
- Individuals in or from First Nations, Métis and Inuit communities;
- Members of racialized and other equity-deserving communities;
- People who provide essential community services.

For this fall, the [Ministry of Health recommends](#) that individuals who have been previously vaccinated against COVID-19 receive a dose of the XBB.1.5-containing COVID-19 mRNA vaccine if it has been six months since their previous COVID-19 vaccine dose or known COVID-19 infection. Individuals who have not been previously vaccinated may also receive the XBB.1.5-containing COVID-19 vaccine to initiate the series.

GBPH expects to begin receiving the XBB.1.5-containing COVID-19 vaccine this week. Vaccines will initially be prioritized for residents in long-term care and retirement homes and First Nations residents. Primary Care Providers will likely receive the vaccine in late October.

The Ministry of Health says flu shots will be available starting this month for the most vulnerable high-risk populations. It will then be made available to residents of retirement homes and other congregate settings, before being rolled out to the general public.

The general public will be able to receive the COVID-19 and flu vaccines starting Oct. 30.

Sincerely,

Grey Bruce Public Health  
519-376-9420 ext. 3910  
vpd@publichealthgreybruce.on.ca