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More COVID-19 vaccine sites opening, more appointments in Northumberland, Kawartha

70-74 appointments coming soon; the latest on Phase 2, vaccine progress, pharmacy rollout

By [Sarah Hyatt](#) Northumberland News

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EDITOR'S NOTE: *There has been an [update on pharmacy rollout since this article was posted](#).*

More regional COVID-19 mass vaccination sites will soon be up and running.

Next week, three additional clinics in Northumberland, Kawartha and Haliburton

will launch, with appointments starting April 6. Appointments for these clinics – and the other regional clinics already operating – are being [uploaded into the provincial booking system for eligible groups](#).

“So with this new forecast of vaccines, we are currently uploading clinic appointments into the provincial system, up to I believe the 24th of April, and if they’re not there yet, they’re in the queue,” said Dr. Ian Gemmill, [the Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge District Health Unit’s](#) acting medical officer of health. “It’s a two-step process, we submit them to the Province of Ontario, and then their staff, who is busy putting in appointments from all across Ontario (and for) all 34 jurisdictions of local public health (agencies have to input the appointments.)”

Again, local officials say they aren’t inputting appointments until doses are confirmed in an effort to avoid cancellations.

The public health-led clinics coming online next week are at the [Trent Hills Emergency Services Base](#), at the [Fenelon Falls Community Centre](#), and at the [S.G. Nesbitt Memorial Arena](#). (The [A.J. LaRue Community Centre](#) site is to open the week of April 12.)

Other local clinics at the [Cobourg Community Centre](#) (now being run by public health four days a week), and at the [Lindsay Exhibition](#) (run by [Ross Memorial Hospital](#) five days a week), continue to operate.

And while clinics are still limited by vaccine supply – a struggle we’ll dive more into with upcoming coverage – with a little more vaccine flowing here recently, rollout is progressing.

“I know that the province wants to move to Phase 2 in April and I think that we are getting pretty darn close to being finished Phase 1,” said Gemmill. “We’ve done all the retirement homes now (but) we’re still working a little bit on the chronic home care (population)...”

In other words, the hope is soon this area will be well into Phase 2 and in “lockstep with others across Ontario.”

Related content

Here are the pharmacies offering COVID-19 vaccines in Peterborough, Northumberland, Kawartha Lakes

Ontario's Plan Recap

Phase 1 High-risk populations (~ 1.8 million)	Phase 2 Mass deliveries of vaccines (~ 9 million)	Phase 3 Steady state
December 2020 – March 2021	April 2021 – July 2021	July 2021 Onwards
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Congregate living for seniors Health care workers Adults in First Nations, Métis and Inuit populations Adult chronic home care recipients Adults over 80 years old 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adults aged 60-79, in 5-year increments High-risk congregate settings (e.g., shelters, community living) Individuals with high-risk chronic conditions and their caregivers Cannot work from home At-risk populations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adults 59 years and younger
Distribution through: hospital site clinics, mobile teams, site-specific clinics, pharmacies, and mass vaccination clinics (late March).	Distribution through: mass vaccination clinics, pharmacies, primary care, site-specific clinics, mobile teams, mobile sites, public health units	Distribution through: mass vaccination clinics, pharmacies, primary care, site-specific clinics, mobile teams, mobile sites, public health units

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Note: Timelines are estimates and may change dependent on vaccine supply



HKPR is close and vaccines for the 75-plus age group – which is part of Phase 2 – have already started, so it shouldn’t be long before more local doses are flowing to other groups, said Gemmill, adding for those 70 to 74 it should be “very soon.”

Effective March 29, individuals 70-plus in 2021 were eligible to book appointments at mass clinics in select areas. (When this group is eligible here, those details will be published.)

But, with certain groups under Phase 2, like essential workers, for example, some planning is still needed, Gemmill has noted.

Meanwhile, according to recent data compiled and provided following a technical briefing with provincial officials on vaccination plans, in this region 82 per cent of the 80 and older group had at least one vaccine dose or a scheduled appointment; and in the 75-79 category, about 50 per cent had at least one dose or a scheduled appointment (as of evening of March 29.)

In the briefing documentation provided, it stated as of 10 a.m. March 30, 19,600-plus appointments had been booked in HKPR. This data also shows a **higher immunization rate than reported earlier this week**, indicating more than 28,000 doses had been administered, with 2,600-plus residents fully vaccinated.

Regional Status Update

- The vaccination rollout is currently in Phase One, with over 2.1 million doses administered and over 313,000 Ontarians fully immunized (as of March 29, 8 pm)

Haliburton, Kawartha and Pine Ridge	
Doses administered	• Over 28,000
People fully vaccinated	• Over 2,600
Age 75-79	• 50% with at least one dose or a scheduled appointment
Age 80+	• 82% with at least one dose or a scheduled appointment

Doses received to date, according to this data, exceeded 31,000 (26,910 Pfizer and 4,800 Moderna doses); and vaccination efforts are continuing this week.

The latest figures on upcoming confirmed shipments (April 5 to April 12) include 11,700 Pfizer and 5,900 Moderna doses. In other words, with previous recent weekly doses between 3,000 and 6,000, shipments the next two weeks are up slightly.

Again, those **eligible to book appointments are encouraged to “just keep checking”** if not seeing local sites/slots. Appointments continue to be uploaded as supply permits, but once all slots are taken, sites temporarily disappear until more vaccine is confirmed and bookings again uploaded.

As for when the AstraZeneca vaccine may reach local pharmacies or possible primary-care settings, those details are still not firmed up (and are dependent on an upcoming shipment to Ontario, with the date still pending, but expected in April.)

When it does reach here, it’s anticipated a minimum of three pharmacies will be selected to start, with those locations still to be determined, according to the latest reports. (The hope is as the province expands locations – up to 1,500 sites by end of April – there will be more local options.)

Again, some participating pharmacies/primary-care settings have been offering this vaccine to those 60-plus, but not here as of yet. Residents are encouraged to “watch for updates.”

The one-dose Johnson & Johnson vaccine allocations are still not known; delivery is anticipated sometime within the next three months.

With current allocations, roughly 1,000 doses can go into arms daily, but with more

supply, area clinics could manage some 5,000 doses a day, Gemmill said.

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HELPFUL INFO:

To book vaccine appointments, visit www.ontario.ca/bookvaccine or call [1-888-999-6488](tel:1-888-999-6488); phone lines open Monday to Sunday 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.

For help with bookings or for frequently asked questions, visit <http://www.hkpr.on.ca/2021/03/14/booking-a-vaccination-appointment/>.

In alignment with updated National Advisory Committee on Immunization recommendations, Ontario won't be using AstraZeneca for those under 55, while more data is being reviewed by Health Canada.

Keep an eye on [Ontario.ca/pharmacycovidvaccine \(https://covid-19.ontario.ca/get-covid-19-vaccine\)](https://covid-19.ontario.ca/get-covid-19-vaccine).

Eligibility info is uploaded via www.hkpr.on.ca; residents can also ask questions via the [new Click and Connect feature](#).

Clinic sites may change in the future.

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