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**LOCAL: NEWS** 

## Winter storm forces cancellation of Jan. 17 vaccination clinics

Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge District Health Unit opts out of holding mass vaccination clinics in Lindsay, Cobourg and Colborne to ensure staff, volunteer and participant safety

By Catherine Whitnall Reporter
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With a winter storm predicted for the area, the health unit is cancelling its mass vaccination clinics scheduled for Monday (Jan. 17) in Cobourg, Lindsay and Colborne.

The Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge District Health Unit cancelled clinics planned to take place at the Lindsay Exhibition grounds, the Cobourg Community Centre and the Keeler Centre in light of predictions by Environment Canada that significant snow is expected to fall overnight Sunday and into Monday (Jan. 17).

"We apologize to everyone who has an appointment booked, but with the predicted snowfall we thought it best to cancel the clinic to ensure the safety of our residents, staff and volunteers so they didn't have to travel in that weather," says HKPR health unit medical officer of health Dr. Natalie Bocking.

Individuals who had an appointment booked for Jan. 17 at one of the HKPR vaccination clinics are encouraged to go back into the provincial booking system (<a href="https://covid-19.ontario.ca/book-vaccine/">https://covid-19.ontario.ca/book-vaccine/</a>) to book another appointment or call 1-833-943-3900. The health unit is no longer accepting walk-ins at any of its mass immunization clinics.

"With the Omicron variant circulating in the community, it is still important to get vaccinated so I would encourage everyone who had their appointment cancelled to rebook to ensure they are protected," continues Dr. Bocking.

COVID-19 vaccines are now available for anyone five years of age and older, including third doses for those aged 18 and older. The public is reminded that, due to a provincial shortage of Pfizer vaccine, individuals 30 and older will receive the Moderna vaccine at health unit led clinics.

Vaccinations are also available through primary care providers as well as area pharmacies (https://covid-19.ontario.ca/vaccine-locations).

For more information on vaccines, bookings and other matters relating to COVID-19 visit www.hkpr.on.ca



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