



Durham Region Health Department FAX about...

For Health Care Professionals



COVID-19 Vaccine Eligibility Update & Physician Reminders

Thank you for your ongoing efforts to support your clients in receiving COVID-19 vaccines when they are eligible. **As a reminder, physician or health care provider notes are not required for your clients to receive a COVID-19 vaccine.**

Clients who are pregnant, breastfeeding, immunosuppressed due to disease or treatment, have an autoimmune or uncontrolled bleeding disorder will need to have a consult with a health care provider before receiving a vaccine at one of our community clinics. They will not be able to get their vaccine unless they talk to their specialist, doctor or nurse practitioner. They need to verbally attest that they have done so, but **do not require a written note.**

Unfortunately clients are booking vaccine appointments and showing up to be vaccinated when they are not eligible. Please ensure that clients meet the current eligibility criteria as outlined at [durham.ca/covidvaccines](https://www.durham.ca/covidvaccines) or on the booking site <https://www.durhamvaccinebooking.ca/>. If they are not eligible they will be turned away. **Providing a note does not allow clients to be vaccinated if they are not already prioritized.**

The [second dose intervals for COVID-19 vaccines](#) are set by the provincial government on the [recommendations](#) of the National Advisory Committee on Immunization (NACI). Certain prioritized individuals and groups are able to receive their second dose at the recommended product monograph interval (21 days for Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine and 28 days for Moderna COVID-19 vaccine).

- Transplant recipients (including solid organ transplants and hematopoietic stem cell transplants)
- Individuals with malignant hematologic disorders and non-hematologic malignant solid tumors receiving stable, active treatment (chemotherapy, targeted therapies, immunotherapy), excluding those receiving solely hormonal therapy or radiation therapy

Providing a note does not allow clients to be vaccinated at the shorter interval if they are not already prioritized.

Some clients are reporting that physicians are advising Pfizer is the best vaccine to receive, and are arriving at the clinics and then declining their vaccine in favour of another one. All vaccines approved for use in Canada are safe and effective and clients should receive the first vaccine that is available to them.

Thank you again for your ongoing efforts to support your clients in receiving COVID-19 vaccines when they are eligible.

April 14, 2021

905-668-2020 or 1-800-841-2729 | [durham.ca/health](https://www.durham.ca/health)

If you require this information in an accessible format, contact 1-800-841-2729.

