
Media Release



Get vaccinated to keep COVID-19 cases low **July 27, 2021 - For immediate release**

Timiskaming Health Unit is calling on everyone in our district to get vaccination rates as high as possible to keep COVID-19 cases as low as possible. Vaccination is the key to getting back to the things we love, like spending time with family and friends. Moving out of Step 3 will require having low or no COVID-19 in our district, and Ontario will need to have a vaccination rate of at least 80% for one dose and 75% for two doses among people aged 12 and older. All public health units in Ontario must have a two-dose rate higher than 70%. In Timiskaming, 76.7% of eligible people have received one dose and 64.9% have received two doses.

While vaccination has reduced the number of new cases being reported in our area, the virus still poses a threat. The Delta variant is the most common virus strain circulating in Ontario. It spreads more easily and causes more serious disease. One dose of the vaccine does not protect well against this variant, and two doses are needed for a strong immune response.

“In the wake of the more infectious Delta variant spreading in Ontario, some areas that have so far had low COVID-19 case counts, such as Grey-Bruce, are seeing surges among unvaccinated people,” said Dr. Glenn Corneil, Acting Medical Officer of Health and CEO for the Timiskaming Health Unit. “High vaccination rates will allow us to rely less on other public health measures, such as capacity limits in our favourite places, like stores, theatres, gyms, restaurants and festivals.”

If community vaccination is high, it will protect people who can't get vaccinated, such as people with certain medical conditions and children under the age of 12. Although younger people who get COVID-19 usually have milder symptoms, some children have had severe disease and been hospitalized, and a few children have died in Canada. Everyone who is eligible to get vaccinated can play a role in protecting others.

Vaccines also work to protect *you* against COVID-19. People who take time off of work to get vaccinated or due to vaccine side effects can use paid sick days under the Ontario COVID-19 Worker Income Protection Benefit. And, because the vaccine works extremely well, people who are vaccinated are less likely to have to self-isolate for 14 days if they are exposed to someone with COVID-19.

“We are calling out to everyone who still needs a first dose and to everyone whose second doses are due. Now is the time to get vaccinated,” said Dr. Corneil. “There are many convenient options available, such as our walk-in clinics or an appointment at your local pharmacy. If you already have two doses, that's great! You can help by encouraging friends and family to get vaccinated.”

Walk-in clinics will be held at the New Liskeard Arena and Kirkland Lake Legion on Tuesday July 27 and Wednesday July 28 and at the Englehart Arena on Thursday July 29. All clinics take place from 3:30-6:30 p.m. For more information, visit www.timiskaminghu.com.

-30-

Media Contact:

Susan Hall, Public Health Promoter
705-647-4305, Ext. 2242
halls@timiskaminghu.com

Age Group	Percentage of THU residents who have received their first dose	Percentage of THU residents fully vaccinated
80+	89.0%	84.9%
70-79	91.2%	88.2%
60-69	87.6%	80.9%
50-59	77.0%	66.8%
40-49	73.8%	60.8%
30-39	71.3%	54.0%
18-29	58.9%	39.4%
12-17	59.8%	34.6%
18+	77.9%	67.0%
12+	76.7%	64.9%
Total Timiskaming population	67.4%	57.0%
Total number of doses administered in THU *	22,461	19,340

The percent coverage presented on this table includes Timiskaming residents who have received a COVID-19 vaccine, regardless of the location of vaccine administration.

The denominator changed to 2020 population projections June 7, 2021 to align with provincial reporting, which caused the percentages to fluctuate. In addition, on June 9, 2021, THU adjusted its source for getting local vaccine data to allow for more accurate estimates of vaccine coverage in Timiskaming. Thus, the numbers and percentages in some of the age groups shifted at that time.

* The total number of doses includes all doses given in Timiskaming (regardless of clients addresses), including in primary care, pharmacies, THU vaccination clinics.