

COVID-19 Vaccines Now Available for York Region Residents 80 Years of Age and Older

Update to York Region health-care providers and pharmacists as of February 26, 2021

York Region is moving forward under our [COVID-19 Mass Immunization Plan](#) to offer vaccines to residents 80 years of age and older without contraindications. Effective Monday, March 1, 2021, York Region residents age 80+ can book an appointment at york.ca/COVID19Vaccine

York Region Public Health is working with our local health system partners to provide COVID-19 vaccines for this new eligible priority group at three locations:

- **Cortellucci Vaughan Hospital** located in the City of Vaughan, operated by Mackenzie Health
- **Cornell Community Centre** located in the City of Markham, operated by Eastern York Region North Durham (EYRND) Ontario Health Team (OHT)
- **Ray Twinney Recreation Complex** located in the Town of Newmarket, operated by Southlake Regional Health Centre

Additional clinics will open in March as more vaccine supplies become available. Vaccines are available **by appointment only for York Region residents**. Appointment availability is based on limited vaccine supply. Age 80+ is defined as anyone born in 1941 or before, regardless of date or month of birth.

Appointments may be made by an individual or their caregiver on behalf of someone age 80+, using the date of birth for the person receiving the vaccine and their OHIP card number, if available. Residents age 80+ who are not comfortable or able to book an appointment online are encouraged to seek out a support person (caregiver, family member or friend) who can assist in booking this appointment on their behalf. Only the individual age 80+ who resides in York Region is eligible to be vaccinated at this time. Remind your patients to bring their health (OHIP) card to the clinic, or other form of government issued-photo ID such as a driver's license, passport or Status Card if they do not have an OHIP card.

Walk-in appointments are not available.

Please share this information with your patients 80 years of age and older and/or any family members/caregivers who can assist those over 80 where needed. A toolkit follows this message you and your office can use to help promote the COVID-19 vaccine. Physicians and pharmacists are among the most trusted sources of information; thank you for sharing with your patients and spreading the word.

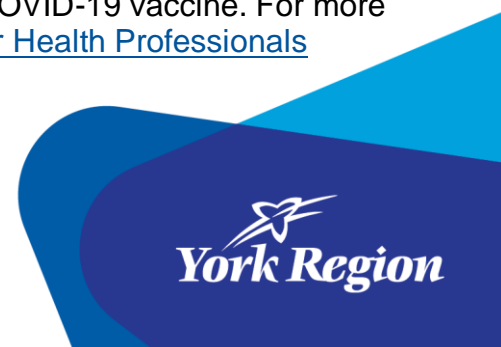
Additional information for the public can be found at york.ca/COVID19VaccineInfo

Understandably, a large volume of interest is expected for vaccines for this priority group. **We urge everyone to remain patient over the next couple of days as we finalize these booking details.**

Currently, the three clinics above will be offering Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine. For more information on the vaccine, please visit York Region's [COVID-19 for Health Professionals](#) and york.ca/COVID19VaccineInfo.

If you have any questions, contact York Region Public Health's phone line for health-care professionals at 1-877-464-9675 ext. 77280 from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday to Friday.

PUBLIC HEALTH
york.ca/COVID19Vaccine



YORK REGION COVID-19 VACCINE DIGITAL TOOLKIT EDITION #1



#IGotMyVaccineInYR

york.ca/COVID19vaccine



York Region

COMMUNICATIONS TOOLKIT

Date: February 26, 2021

Dear Community Partner,

Thank you for helping share the important message of COVID-19 vaccination. Vaccines are here, they are safe, effective and our best shot for bringing this pandemic to an end. As supply becomes available, York Region is prepared and ready to bring vaccines to all those who want them, in priority order.

We need your help

We ask your help as a community partner to extend the reach of our growing York Region Mass Immunization program through the communication channels available to you.

Future Digital Toolkit updates will be issued as more resources and information becomes available.

Included in this issue:

- **Key Messages** – For your information, for use in responding to public inquiries you may be receiving or adapted for use in your own publications and newsletters
- **Social Media and Digital Publication Info** – Information on how to follow, sign up for and use these York Region’s Key digital platforms to receive updates and stay informed
- **Shareable Assets** – Resources which can be printed, posted, or emailed to help raise COVID-19 vaccine awareness, encourage uptake of the vaccine and help dispel misinformation of myths related to vaccination.

For more information, please contact York Region Public Health or York Region Corporate Communications at HEOCCommunications@york.ca or YR.Corporate.Communications@york.ca

KEY MESSAGES

York Region’s Mass Immunization Plan:

- As more vaccines become available, York Region is prepared and ready to ensure the safe and coordinated vaccination of our community from COVID-19. Visit york.ca/COVID19Vaccine to read the plan, learn more about the vaccine and how and when you can receive it
- The COVID-19 vaccination program is expanding in York Region with new [York Region Public Health clinics](#) opening this March and more vaccine options on the way
- To date, the Region has secured four fixed clinic sites which will be ready to open in March, upon receiving vaccine supply from the Province of Ontario including:
 - [Aaniin Community Centre, 5665 14th Avenue in the City of Markham](#)
 - [Maple Community Centre, 10190 Keele Street in the City of Vaughan](#)
 - [Richmond Green Sports Centre, 1300 Elgin Mills Road East in the City of Richmond Hill](#)
 - [Georgina Ice Palace, 90 Wexford Drive in the Town of Georgina](#)
 - ***Please note these sites are not currently open and are subject to change.**

- York Region continues to implement a flexible hybrid model for vaccine distribution and administration. This includes multiple fixed clinics sites in various sizes, drive-thru and mobile clinics
- Sites were chosen based on accessibility criteria, population distribution and neighborhoods of vulnerability. As more vaccine becomes available, these clinics will be scaled up to accommodate vaccinating a greater number of residents.
- Supply of vaccines will not arrive all at once, so distribution will happen in stages. When more supplies become available, vaccines will be offered to everyone who wants one, in priority order
- We are currently in [Phase One of the Government of Ontario's COVID-19 Vaccine Distribution Plan](#). The opening of new mass immunization clinics will support the Region as we complete Phase 1 and move into Phase 2, expected this April
- York Region is working diligently with all health and government partners to bring the vaccine to the community as quickly as possible
- Rest assured, as supply increases in coming months and more groups become eligible to receive vaccines, updated communications and advertisements will be released explaining how and when to receive a vaccine when it is your turn
- York Region's website, including york.ca/COVID19 and york.ca/COVID19Vaccine are your trusted source for COVID-19 information. Follow [York Region's](#) social media channels, including YouTube, Twitter and Facebook, and subscribe to the bi-weekly [#YRMatters](#) e-newsletter to stay informed
- Stay tuned for further updates and thank you for your patience as you wait for your turn to receive the COVID-19 vaccine
- Before and after receiving a vaccine, it is important to continue to follow public health measures: Stay home as much as possible, practice physical distancing, stay home if unwell, wear a mask when required and wash your hands frequently

York Region ready to vaccinate residents age 80+

- After receiving permission from retired General Hillier and The Government of Ontario, York Region is moving forward under our [COVID-19 Mass Immunization Plan](#) to offer vaccines to residents 80 years of age and older
- Effective Monday, March 1, 2021 at 8 a.m. York Region residents age 80+ (born in 1941 or earlier) can book an appointment for their vaccination by visiting york.ca/COVID19Vaccine
- Vaccines will be available **by appointment only** and **only for York Region residents**
- Residents age 80+ who are not able or not comfortable booking an online appointment are encouraged to seek out a support person (caregiver, family member or friend) who can assist in booking this appointment on your behalf
- This is great news for many of our most vulnerable residents and another step forward to bring an end to this pandemic through vaccination
- York Region Public Health is working with our local hospital partners to provide COVID-19 vaccines for this new eligible priority group at three locations:

- **Cortellucci Vaughan Hospital** located in the City of Vaughan, operated by Mackenzie Health
 - **Cornell Community Centre** located in the City of Markham, operated by Eastern York Region North Durham (EYRND) Ontario Health Team (OHT)
 - **Ray Twinney Recreation Complex** located in the Town of Newmarket, operated by Southlake Regional Health Centre
- Understandably, a large volume of interest is expected for vaccines for this priority group
 - **We urge you to remain patient over the next couple of days as we finalize these booking details**
 - We will **not** be able to book any appointments for this priority group before **Monday, March 1, 2021 at 8 a.m.**
 - A health card is not required to book an appointment, but proof of age and residence will be required on the day you receive your vaccine
 - **Walk-in appointments are not available**; please do not visit the vaccination clinic without an appointment, as you will be turned away
 - Family, friends and caregivers of York Region residents in the 80+ age group are encouraged to let them know the COVID-19 vaccine is available and assist to book appointments online, provide transportation or otherwise provide support; immunization is the best way to protect them and others against COVID-19
 - [York.ca/COVID19Vaccine](https://york.ca/COVID19Vaccine) is your trusted source for COVID-19 vaccine information

COVID-19 Vaccine: Why Getting a Vaccine Matters

- The sooner most people are vaccinated, the sooner our lives can return to normal
- When a large percentage of the population becomes immune to COVID-19, the spread of the virus will slow down or stop. Achieving herd immunity through vaccination is our best shot for allowing individuals, families and workers to safely resume normal life
- Vaccines will help bring this pandemic to an end
- Anyone can get COVID-19 and become very sick. There's no way to know for sure how seriously COVID-19 will impact you
- COVID-19 can have serious, life-threatening complications, and if you get sick, you could spread the disease to friends, family, and others around you
- Like all vaccines, people who are vaccinated gain protection without ever having to risk the serious consequences of getting sick from exposure to the virus
- Vaccines are extremely effective at preventing COVID-19 infection and reducing the chance of serious illness
- A vaccine is the only foreseeable way to end the COVID-19 pandemic
- To make sure everyone who wants a vaccine can get one safely and quickly, it's important to get vaccinated as soon as you are able to

SOCIAL MEDIA, NEWSLETTER AND WEBSITE

Broad communication on who will be vaccinated next, clinic dates and locations, as well as options for booking appointments will be promoted in multiple languages and through a variety of platforms, including york.ca/COVID19Vaccine, social media, print and digital channels.

Social Media

As updates become available, York Region will issue regular updates on our social media channels. You can help by following, sharing and engaging:

Follow [York Region's social media channels](#). Watch for our messages and please **share** our content on your own channels when possible. **Engage** on our content with actions such as likes and comments to help the posts be better seen by more people.

#YRMatters e-newsletter

Please sign up to receive our bi-weekly e-newsletter [#YRMatters](#). Please also promote this newsletter however you can to encourage others to sign up. Ongoing vaccine updates will be featured prominently in this newsletter.

York.ca

Please help promote the York Region website as the *central, trusted source of truth* for COVID-19 updates and information. Please promote york.ca/COVID19 and york.ca/COVID19Vaccine to stay informed and view updates as they become available.

SHAREABLE ASSETS

Visit the “Resources” section of york.ca/COVID19Vaccine to download the following assets for sharing or posting:

- [COVID-19 Vaccine Fact Sheet](#)
- [Vaccine Quick Facts Infographic](#)
- [COVID-19 Vaccine Poster](#)

The following educational resources are also available:

- [COVID-19 Vaccine Video: What You Need to Know](#)
- [York Region Mass Immunization Plan](#) – Feb. 18, 2021
- Additional Frequently Asked Questions are available on at york.ca/COVID19Vaccine

You may also wish to direct inquiries to:

- [COVID-19 Vaccines for Ontario](#) (Provincial Government Resources)
- [What you need to know about the COVID-19 vaccine for Canada](#) (Federal Government Resources)