

May 21, 2021

Hello,

As the eligibility for COVID-19 continues to change rapidly, Niagara Region Public Health wanted to share the latest developments in regards to Indigenous immunizations. Please share this information with your staff and families as you best see fit.

The Indigenous community was identified in the Provincial Vaccination Plan as a priority population as they have been disproportionately impacted by past pandemics. Immunization of those in this population has the potential to reduce or prevent the exacerbation of social and biological health inequities.

Youth Vaccinations

- In addition to all Indigenous adults being prioritized for vaccination, Indigenous youth ages 12 and older are now eligible, along with members of their household who have not yet been vaccinated
- Please note, the Pfizer vaccine is the only COVID-19 vaccine currently approved by Health Canada for youth aged 12 and over

Shortened Dose Intervals

- The province has recently confirmed that First Nations, Inuit and Métis individuals residing in urban communities, including non-Indigenous partners and household members can now book their appointment to receive a second dose of the COVID-19 vaccine earlier than the extended four-month interval

Booking an Appointment

- Niagara Region Public Health continues to offer Indigenous Pop-Up Clinics dedicated for providing immunization for members of the Indigenous community, their household members or care providers. Indigenous individuals do not require status to qualify.
- Additional clinics for youth and families will also take place in mid-June
- Adults 18 and older can book their first dose through the provincial booking system either online at [Ontario.ca/bookvaccine](https://ontario.ca/bookvaccine) or by calling 1-833-943-3900
- Those 12-17 or adults booking their second dose at the shortened interval can register by filling out this form: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/SG92DLZ>. Registrants will be contacted with their appointment time and date.



Community Partnership

Providing immunizations to the Indigenous community would not have been possible without the help of the following organizations. We are grateful for their support.

- Brock Aboriginal Student Services
- De dwa da dehs nye>s Aboriginal Health Centre
- District School Board of Niagara
- Fort Erie Native Friendship Centre
- Ganawegeh Urban Homes
- Indigenous Diabetes Health Circle
- Metis Nation of Ontario
- Niagara Catholic District School Board
- Niagara Aboriginal Area Management Board (NPAMMB)
- Niagara Chapter Native Women
- Niagara College - Indigenous Education
- Niagara Regional Native Centre
- Ohsto:Seri Urban Aboriginal Homes
- Tungasuvvingat Inuit

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Angela Alfieri-Maiolo".

Angela Alfieri-Maiolo
Director, Pandemic Response
Public Health and Emergency Services