

GRH COVID Vaccine Clinic

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

The information in this FAQ is intended for staff, caregivers and vaccine scheduling coordinators in long-term care and retirement homes. It does not, and is not intended to, answer any vaccine questions related to residents.

Why is the Grand River Hospital (GRH) vaccine clinic closing temporarily?

- The clinic is closing temporarily because of a delay of vaccine shipments; which is causing a shortage of vaccine supply. The delay in shipments is due to production issues by the manufacturer (Pfizer) in Europe.

How long will the GRH vaccine clinic be closed?

- The GRH clinic will be closed temporarily starting on Friday, Jan. 29th. At this time, we do not know what the reopening date will be. As soon as we receive information about the reopening date, we will communicate this to our facility scheduling coordinators.

What is the recommended amount of time between 1st and 2nd doses of the vaccine?

- As recommended by Ontario's Chief Medical Officer of Health, **residents** of long-term care and high-risk retirement homes should receive their 2nd dose within 21-27 days of receiving their 1st dose.
- **All other vaccine recipients** (including long-term care and retirement home staff and caregivers) should receive their 2nd dose within 35-42 days of receiving their 1st dose.

How effective will the vaccine be with the delay between doses?

- Based on reports from the National Advisory Committee on Immunization (NACI), the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), and the World Health Organization (WHO), the delay in receiving the 2nd dose at 42 days is expected to yield similarly high protection seen with administration at 21 or 28 days.

When will we hear about new appointment dates for 1st and 2nd doses at the GRH vaccine clinic?

- The Public Health Scheduling Team will reach out to facility scheduling coordinators with new appointment dates and times as soon as GRH receives confirmation of the date they can expect more vaccine doses.

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- Once the GRH vaccine clinic reopens and scheduling can begin again, 2nd doses will be prioritized. This is to ensure that those who have already received their 1st dose receive their 2nd dose within the recommended period of time.
- Clinics for 1st doses will begin once the vaccine supply is large enough to handle both 2nd doses (which must be prioritized) AND 1st doses.

Is my 2nd dose appointment date still valid?

- The answer to this question is likely 'no'. Once the GRH vaccine clinic reopens, appointment dates for everyone who is due for their 2nd dose will be shifted. Again, this is to ensure that everyone receives their 2nd dose within the recommended period of time. Those who are supposed to receive their 2nd dose during the time that the clinic is closed will be prioritized once it reopens.
- Public Health will work with facility scheduling coordinators to reschedule appointments for staff and caregivers.
- Facility scheduling coordinators will then reach out to staff and caregivers to notify them of their new date and time.
- Staff and caregivers should not contact Public Health directly to book their 2nd dose appointment. They will be directed back to their facility scheduling coordinator.

How will I (as a staff member or caregiver) be notified of my appointment?

- If you are staff or a caregiver, you will be contacted by the individual from your facility who is working with the Public Health Scheduling Team to coordinate appointment times. You will not be hearing from Public Health directly.