

MEMO

TO: All Staff, Physicians and Volunteers

FROM: Occupational Health / Infection Prevention and Control

DATE: November 4, 2021

SUBJECT: Health Care Worker eligibility for third dose of COVID-19 Vaccine

Yesterday, the province announced expanded eligibility for a third dose (booster) of the COVID-19 vaccine based on recommendations from Canada's National Advisory Committee on Immunization (NACI).

The expanded eligibility includes ALL health care workers who are at least six months (168 days) past the date they received their second (last) dose.

According to NACI, health care workers are at an increased risk of COVID-19 infection due to their ongoing interactions and potential exposures to patients that are or may be infected with COVID-19, and are essential for maintaining health system capacity. They also pose an increased risk of transmission to vulnerable populations, if infected.

All eligible health care workers will be able to receive their third (booster) dose within the community at mass vaccination clinics operated for the Renfrew County and District Health Unit by the Pembroke Regional Hospital or at participating pharmacies.

The booking system for Renfrew County clinic appointments will open this Friday, November 5 at 8 a.m and can be accessed online at the following link: <https://bit.ly/3DV5Jj1>

In the meantime, staff, physicians and volunteers are being reassured that while third doses (boosters) are recommended for this group, they are NOT part of the mandatory vaccine requirements for employment and are NOT required to be considered "fully vaccinated". The province also said that there are no plans, at present, to make third doses a part of the provincial vaccine passport requirements.