



## For Immediate Release

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(Pembroke, Ontario, October 4, 2024)

### **RCDHU Fall Vaccine Program Update**

Renfrew County and District Health Unit (RCDHU) is pleased to offer COVID-19 and flu community immunization clinics this fall.

**As of October 8<sup>th</sup>, 2024, clinics will be available to high-risk and priority groups aged six months and older.** COVID-19 vaccinations will be offered by **appointment only**. Starting October 11<sup>th</sup>, both vaccines will also be available to high-risk individuals at participating pharmacies.

Currently eligible high-risk and priority groups include:

- All adults 65 years of age or older
- Residents of long-term care homes and other congregate living settings
- People with underlying medical conditions that increase their risk of severe [COVID-19](#) or [flu](#) infections
- People who are pregnant
- People from First Nations, Métis, and Inuit communities
- Members of racialized and other equity-deserving communities
- Healthcare workers and first responders
- People with significant exposure to birds and mammals (such as poultry, livestock, processing plant workers, wildlife officers/researchers, and veterinarians)
- All children 6 months to 4 years of age

High-risk and priority groups are eligible to receive their COVID-19 vaccine if it has been at least 6 months since their last COVID-19 vaccination or test-confirmed COVID-19 infection.

#### **Residents looking for COVID-19 and flu immunization:**

- COVID-19 immunization appointments **must be booked** through the [Ontario Provincial Appointment Booking system](#).
- Flu vaccines will also be available at the time of your appointment should you choose to get one at that time. You do not need to indicate this when booking your appointment.

- Please note, appointments **cannot** be booked directly through RCDHU. If you need assistance booking an appointment, please contact the Provincial Vaccine Contact Centre at 1-833-943-3900.

**Residents looking for a flu vaccine only:**

- Flu vaccines will be offered at RCDHU clinics on a walk-in basis. Wait times will vary.
- Flu vaccines are also available through [participating pharmacies](#). It is recommended that you contact the pharmacy ahead of time as appointments may be required.
- Flu vaccines are also available through participating healthcare providers.

**Starting October 28<sup>th</sup>, COVID-19 and flu vaccines will be available to anyone 6 months of age and older at RCDHU clinics, participating pharmacies, and participating healthcare providers.**

“I strongly encourage everyone 6 months of age and older to receive their updated COVID-19 and flu vaccines as soon as they're eligible to protect themselves and the wider community as respiratory illnesses pick up this fall season,” states Dr. Jason Morgenstern, Medical Officer of Health, RCDHU.

For RCDHU's clinic dates and locations, please visit our [COVID-19 and Flu Clinic Schedule](#). Stay connected by visiting [www.rcdhu.com](http://www.rcdhu.com).

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