

We Need Your Help! Many Residents Age 60+ Still Unvaccinated

Update to York Region health care providers as of June 28, 2021

We want to thank all the health care providers that have been vaccinating against COVID-19 and for their continued efforts. Collectively we have made a lot of progress in the distribution of COVID-19 vaccines, but we still have a long way to go to achieve as much protection as possible for our community.

Approximately 23% of York Region adults (age 18+) remain unvaccinated against COVID-19, including many 60 years of age and older who are at higher risk of severe illness if exposed to COVID-19.

We are asking for your help as a trusted and informed health care provider to help us promote first dose COVID-19 vaccination for all your patients and clients, particularly those age 60 and above.

We continue to see the devastating impact of COVID-19 in our residents, especially among those who are unvaccinated. In our recent data from May 1 to June 9, 2021, there were **67 deaths** from COVID-19 in York Region:

- **70% of these were unvaccinated individuals**
- 12% had received one dose, but contracted the illness prior to vaccination or within the 14-day period after receiving the vaccine and before reaching protective immunity
- 18% received one dose and became sick at or beyond 14 days, but had not yet received a second dose

We know that vaccination works. It continues to lower case counts, hospitalizations and deaths. COVID-19 vaccines are widely available for everyone over 12 years of age and older; there is no need for individuals that still need to get a first dose to wait.

How to get a COVID-19 Vaccine:

- For those willing to book an appointment, new appointments open up frequently. Please ask patients to check york.ca/COVID19Vaccine regularly or call Access York for support at 1-877-464-9675
- Participating primary care physicians are administering mRNA vaccines. Contact the health care provider directly for more information or to book an appointment
- Many pharmacies across York Region are now offering mRNA vaccines. Visit the [Provincial booking site](#) to find pharmacies nearby
- For individuals who have trouble accessing a clinic:
 - [York Regional Transit provides a variety of options to help residents reach a clinic](#)
 - Transportation services are also offered by community organizations such as [CHATS](#), [Carefirst](#), [Routes](#), and [Pinkcars.ca](#). For a complete list of community transportation options, patients can call 211 or visit 211central.ca
 - [The Province of Ontario recently announced a program](#) to help those with mobility issues to receive their COVID-19 vaccine
- In some cases, our Public Health clinics can accept walk-in clients for **first doses** in the event of cancellations or no-shows. Your unvaccinated patients may wish to visit a COVID-19 clinic to see if they are able to receive a first dose without booking an appointment.

PUBLIC HEALTH

york.ca/COVID19Vaccine

The logo for York Region, featuring a stylized white star or arrow shape above the text "York Region" in a white serif font, all set against a dark blue background with a lighter blue wave-like shape behind it.

York Region

Contact York Region Public Health

If you have questions about COVID-19 or COVID-19 vaccines, call the York Region Public Health phone line for health care professionals at 1-877-464-9675 ext. 77280 (8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday to Friday) or visit york.ca/healthprofessionals.

Please encourage your patients to visit york.ca/COVID19Vaccine regularly for updated information.

Additional Resources

- [Answering Questions About COVID-19 Vaccines: a guide for healthcare providers](#)
- [PrOTCT Plan for the COVID-19 vaccine discussion: Tips for Discussing COVID-19 Vaccines](#)

For patients:

- [Preparing for Your Covid-19 Vaccine](#)
- [COVID-19 Vaccine quick facts](#)
- [COVID-19 Vaccines – What you need to know](#)
- [COVID-19 Video: What You Need to Know](#)
- [Frequently Asked Questions](#)