

# MEDIA RELEASE

For immediate release

April 7, 2021

## **COVID-19 vaccine booking opens up to those aged 60+**

As of Wednesday, April 7, 2021, anyone born in 1961 or earlier can book an appointment for their COVID-19 vaccine in the Northwestern Health Unit (NWHU) area. These residents can book online at [www.ontario.ca/bookvaccine](http://www.ontario.ca/bookvaccine) or by calling 1-833-943-3900.

At this time, appointments are available in most communities in the region. “Due to the increase of variants of concern in some areas, if there are no appointments left in your home community, do not book in a different location. Instead, keep checking the booking site - more clinics will be added to ensure that the public can access the vaccine locally,” says Dr. Kit Young Hoon, Medical Officer of Health at NWHU.

In addition to those born in 1961 or earlier, the following groups are also eligible to book an appointment:

- Health Care Workers, including staff who work in congregate living settings
- Adult Home Care Recipients
- Faith leaders who provide end of life care, care of the deceased, funerals, home visits to unwell persons, or pastoral care in hospitals, LTCH, etc.
- Indigenous adults, including Metis aged 18+ (and their household members)
- Those with the following health conditions:
  - Organ transplant recipients;
  - Hematopoietic stem cell transplant recipients;
  - People with neurological diseases in which respiratory function may be compromised (e.g., motor neuron disease, myasthenia gravis, multiple sclerosis);
  - Haematological malignancy diagnosed less than one year ago;
  - Sickle cell disease;
  - Kidney disease eGFR < 30; and
  - Essential caregivers for individuals in the groups listed above

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Anyone who is in the groups listed above must fill out the NWHU's registration form to then receive a booking code and instructions from the Ministry of Health.

For more information on the vaccine booking process and to view dates of clinics by community, please visit [NWHU's booking site](#).

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*A reminder to the media that Dr. Kit Young Hoon hosts online COVID-19 media briefings every Tuesday, 1:30 pm CT and Friday, 10:00 am CT as well as Q&A sessions for the public every second Thursday, 1:00 pm - 2:00 pm CT. If you do not have a link to the media briefings, please email [jbegg@nwhu.on.ca](mailto:jbegg@nwhu.on.ca).*