

IMPORTANT UPDATES ON COVID-19

To: Physicians, Nurse Practitioners, Nurses, and Midwives
Hospital Infection Control Departments and Emergency Departments

COVID-19 Vaccine Exemptions

The Ministry of Health has published guidelines and a form that can be used to document vaccination exemptions for the COVID-19 vaccine.

This document is intended to assist physicians/specialists and nurse practitioners in evaluating contraindications or precautions to COVID-19 vaccination that may warrant a medical exemption. A contraindication is a situation where a vaccine should not be given as the risks outweigh any potential therapeutic benefit. A precaution is a condition that may increase the risk of an adverse event following immunization (AEFI) or compromise the ability of the vaccine to produce an immune response, which may result in deferral of immunization; however, there may be circumstances where the benefits of vaccination outweigh the potential risks from vaccination associated with the condition or where reduced immunogenicity still benefits immunocompromised individuals (Canadian Immunization Guide). **In general, there are very few actual contraindications to available COVID-19 vaccines that would qualify as medical exemptions and most individuals can safely receive COVID-19 vaccines.**

The guidance for exemptions for COVID-19 vaccinations can be found [here](#) / [FR Version](#). The exemption form can be found [here](#) / [FR Version](#).

COVID-19 Third Dose Eligibility and Referral Form

The medical conditions eligible for a third dose of the COVID-19 vaccine can be found [here](#) / [French Version](#). The THU referral form that is to be accepted at all pharmacies and mass clinics is attached. Please complete these for your eligible patients to present at a clinic or participating pharmacy.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact your local Timiskaming Health Unit:

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8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

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