

## **Prototype community vaccination clinic for people age 80+**

### **What is a “prototype” clinic?**

This is the first community-based clinic in Nova Scotia. **The vaccine clinic is by appointment only. Only those who received an invitation letter are eligible to book an appointment at this time.** We will learn from this clinic and use these lessons to set up future clinics.

### **Who can get the vaccine at this prototype clinic?**

Space at this first clinic is limited. Names of Nova Scotians who are 80 or older were randomly selected based on date of birth and postal code. These individuals will receive an invitation letter to the clinic from MSI, Nova Scotia’s public health insurance provider.

### **Can I give this invitation to someone else?**

No, you cannot give this invitation to another person. **It is only for you.**

### **If I receive a letter, can everyone in my household get the vaccine?**

No, this letter applies to you only. If another member of your household is 80 or older, they can also expect to get a letter from MSI. Recipients were randomly selected based on date of birth and postal code.

### **Where is the clinic located?**

IWK Health Centre, 5890 University Avenue, Halifax. A map is included with the invitation letter, showing how to find the clinic when you arrive.

### **Where can I park?**

The map included with the invitation letter also notes parking and drop-off locations. Parking is available in the parkade and validated parking passes will be provided during the appointment.

### **When should I arrive to my appointment?**

Parking can sometimes take time to find. Please give yourself enough time to get to the IWK. We ask that you arrive to your appointments 10 minutes early. You will need to check in and will be asked COVID screening questions before you get your vaccine. If you know you will need support when you arrive, call the IWK COVID Hotline at 902-233-3495 to make arrangements ahead of time.

### **Why is the prototype clinic in Halifax? Is it only open to HRM residents?**

Since this is the first large community vaccine clinic in Nova Scotia, we chose an urban location that could be set up quickly with a high concentration of seniors. Residents randomly selected to participate in this first clinic are all within a one-hour drive of Halifax. Those people who are randomly selected but are unable to attend this clinic will have the opportunity to attend another community-based clinic starting in March.

Nine more community-based clinics in Halifax Regional Municipality, Truro, Cape Breton Regional Municipality, Kentville, Yarmouth, Antigonish, Amherst and Bridgewater are planned in March for those 80 and older. More details about the booking process for upcoming clinics will be shared as those clinics come into operation.

**I can't make it to these clinics. Will I still be able to get the vaccine later?**

More clinics will open in the coming weeks. You can get the vaccine at a future clinic. Now that you are eligible for the vaccine, you remain eligible throughout the entire vaccination effort.

**What if some of the people who were invited to participate in the prototype clinic don't attend? Can I get a spot on a waiting list?**

We know that some of the people selected to receive the vaccine at this clinic will not be able to attend, for a variety of reasons. We planned for that and are sending letters to enough Nova Scotians aged 80+ to fill those spots. There will **not** be a waiting list for this clinic. However, it's important to remember that more vaccine clinics will open in the coming weeks.

**What if I receive a letter but am not able to get an appointment at the prototype clinic?**

We sent more letters than available appointments to make sure that vaccine does not get wasted. We know that everyone who receives a letter may not be able to attend.

If you received a letter and want the vaccine, but the clinic is full, you will have another opportunity to receive the vaccine at a future clinic. Now that you are eligible for the vaccine, you remain eligible throughout the vaccine rollout.

**When is the prototype clinic?**

The COVID-19 vaccine is given in two doses, 21 days apart. You need two appointments, one for each dose.

- February 22 **and** March 15
- February 23 **and** March 16
- February 24 **and** March 17
- February 25 **and** March 18

Book an appointment **only** if you can commit to the dates for both first and second doses.

**When and how can I book my appointment?**

As of February 16 you will be able to book your two appointments. Make sure you are available to attend both appointments. You need your Nova Scotia health card to book your appointment.

- To book online: <https://www.nshealth.ca/vaccine80>
  - You get a booking confirmation by email when you are successful.
- To book by phone: call **811**
  - 10 am–7 pm, seven days a week

**I have a health condition. Am I able to get the vaccine?**

Some people may not be able to receive the vaccine because they:

- have a serious allergy to some of the ingredients in the vaccine
- have an autoimmune disease or immune system problems

If you have one of these conditions, you should speak with your family doctor, nurse practitioner or pharmacist ahead of time. If you are unable to do this, IWK staff will talk with you on the day of your appointment. However, it will be faster and more efficient at the clinic if you are able to speak to your health care provider in advance.

**What do I do if I need to cancel my appointment?**

If you cannot make your appointment, cancel as soon as possible. If you booked online, you can cancel through your booking confirmation. If you booked by phone, call 811 to cancel.

**What do I need to bring to my appointment?**

- bring your letter — to your first appointment
- bring your Nova Scotia health card — to both appointments
- wear a mask — to both appointments
- wear a short-sleeve shirt or one with sleeves that are easy to roll up – at both appointments

**Can I bring someone with me to my appointment and will they get the vaccine too?**

You may bring one support person to help you. They will **not** get the vaccine at this time unless they **also** received a letter from MSI, are 80+ and have a booked appointment. They must wear a mask. They must feel well on the day of your appointment.

**What if I am the substitute decision maker for someone who is getting the vaccine at this clinic? Do I need to bring proof of that status?**

Yes. Please bring documentation with you that proves your substitute decision maker status. You will be asked to provide informed consent on behalf of your loved one.

**Can I still get the vaccine if I'm not feeling well the day of my appointment?**

If you are not feeling well the day of your appointment, please cancel. Do not come to the clinic. You will be screened at the appointment check in. You will be turned away if you:

- have been in a province outside of Nova Scotia or PEI in the past 14 days (or have been in close contact with someone from outside of these provinces in the past 14 days)
- have been in contact with someone who has COVID-19 or is suspected of having COVID-19
- show signs of illness or symptoms of COVID-19, including:
  - fever (i.e. chills/sweats) or cough (new or worsening)

Or: Two or more of the following symptoms (new or worsening):

- sore throat
- runny nose/nasal congestion
- headache
- shortness of breath/difficulty breathing

**Do I need to wear a mask at the clinic?**

Yes, you will need to wear a mask at all times while in IWK Health Centre.

**Who can I call with other questions?**

- If you have questions about your letter, call MSI: 1-800-563-8880
- If you booked your appointment through 811 and need to cancel, please call 811 back.
- If you have questions about the IWK location itself or know you will need support when you arrive, please call 902-233-3495 in advance.

**Will there be transportation provided to the clinic?**

You are responsible for your own transportation to and from the clinic. If you use a wheelchair, walker cane etc., please bring them with you. If you need a wheelchair to help with longer distances, we will have some onsite.

**Is the IWK accessible?**

Yes. Staff and volunteers will be clearly identified in vests and will be available to provide assistance and directions. Wheelchairs are available as needed.

**Will there be interpretation available onsite?**

Yes. Interpretation services will be available using health interpreters over the phone. At the IWK, there are interpreters for more than 100 languages.

**Will I get a reminder about my second appointment?**

Yes, you will receive a reminder about your appointments. You will receive a reminder the day before any appointment, dose 1 or 2.