

NEWS RELEASE

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Get the First COVID-19 Vaccine Available to You for Your First and Second Dose

NIPISSING & PARRY SOUND, ON - As COVID-19 cases drop in Ontario, the North Bay Parry Sound District Health Unit's (Health Unit) region is seeing an ongoing increase in individuals testing positive for COVID-19, many through community spread. The Health Unit is seeing cases among people in many different age and income groups.

"The best defence we have against the continued spread of COVID-19 is to follow public health measures and get fully vaccinated with the first vaccine available to you. If you feel unwell, do not self-diagnose. Stay home, and take Ontario's self-assessment tool to see if you should be tested for COVID-19," states Dr. Jim Chirico, Medical Officer of Health.

A summary by Public Health Ontario showed that since vaccines became available in Ontario, only 0.15 per cent of partially vaccinated individuals and 0.02 per cent of fully vaccinated individuals became infected with COVID-19.

On May 28, 2021, the National Advisory Committee on Immunization (NACI) stated that "at this time there is no reason to believe that mRNA vaccine series completion with a different authorized mRNA vaccine product would result in any additional safety issues or deficiency in protection."

"Get the first vaccine available to you for your first and second dose. The longer you wait for a specific brand, the more time we give COVID-19 to adapt and change. Mixing vaccine brands is not something new, it's done with other routine vaccines and we don't even think about it," explains Dr. Chirico. "We need to all work together by following public health measures and getting fully vaccinated to make our most recent shutdown our last."

Visit [Ontario's website](https://www.ontario.ca) to learn more about how the province continues to protect Ontarians from COVID-19 or visit myhealthunit.ca/covid-19.

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