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Media Release

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Southwestern Public Health region COVID-19 vaccination clinics administering fourth doses for 18 to 59-year-olds

In line with this morning's announcement from the Provincial government, all COVID-19 vaccination clinics in the Southwestern Public Health region will offer second boosters (or 4th doses) to individuals between the ages of 18 and 59 starting today.

The *recommended interval* for the fourth dose is 140 days (5+ months) after the previous booster dose. The *minimum interval* is 84 days (3+ months). The recommended interval following a COVID-19 infection is also 84 days.

"Immunologists have learned that the effectiveness of the vaccine, or the protection we get following infection, decreases over time. At approximately the five-month mark, it's time for those who are eligible, to get a booster to ensure our immune systems are primed and ready to protect us," says Dr. Ninh Tran, Acting Medical Officer of Health for Southwestern Public Health.

"Specifically, we would like to see anyone who is moderately or severely immunocompromised, everyone over the age of 60, and members of the First Nations, Inuit and Métis communities, as those are the people at the highest risk of severe disease due to COVID-19 infection," adds Tran.

The dates, times and locations of scheduled clinics are updated daily at www.swpublichealth.ca/covid19vaccine. Appointments are not available; vaccination is by walk-in only. Due to the anticipated demand, community members should expect line-ups, particularly over the next two weeks.

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