

COVID-19 VACCINE UPDATE #104 FROM HALTON REGION PUBLIC HEALTH

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TO: Halton Physicians, Nurse Practitioners, Emergency Departments, other Healthcare Providers

FROM Dr. Joanna Oda, Associate Medical Officer of Health

DATE: July 12, 2023

RE: COVID-19 Vaccine Update 104: Updated Ontario Ministry of Health COVID-19 Vaccine Guidance, RAT distribution, and Vaccine Ordering

QUICK FACTS

- The [Ontario Ministry of Health](#) recently updated its COVID-19 vaccine guidance to reflect recent guidance from [NACI](#) on the use of the bivalent mRNA products. Highlights include:
 - Using bivalent mRNA vaccines for primary series initiation or completion in individuals 6 months of age and older.
 - Individuals 5 years of age and older due for a COVID-19 booster, should consider delaying until Fall 2023 to maximize protection when peak circulation is expected.
 - Expanding indication of bivalent Moderna BA.4/5 to include individuals 6-17 years for use as a booster.
- NACI also recently released guidance on the use of [COVID-19 vaccines in Fall 2023](#). Further information on the plan for Ontario from the Ministry of Health is expected shortly.
- There is currently a province-wide supply gap for the Novavax COVID-19 vaccine. We are awaiting more information from the federal government on the supply and distribution of the Novavax vaccines.
- Janssen has submitted a voluntary recall of its COVID-19 vaccine to Health Canada. This is not the result of any health or safety concerns with the product; rather it is in response to business decisions made by the manufacturer.
- Halton Region Community Immunization Clinics currently offer mRNA COVID-19 vaccine for children 6 mos to under 12 years of age.
- People 12 years and older can receive the COVID-19 vaccine at [participating pharmacies and primary care offices](#).
- Protect your eligible staff and patients by providing an easy option for COVID-19 vaccination. Visit the [onboarding webpage](#) or email pharmacists@halton.ca with any questions.
- COVID-19 Rapid antigen test are available for order through Halton Region Public Health.

KEY MESSAGES FOR HEALTHCARE PROVIDERS

- The decision to receive a booster dose prior to Fall 2023 may be appropriate for certain individuals based on their unique health status and personal situation.
- Health care providers can order COVID-19 Rapid Antigen Tests for distribution to patients. Tests can be ordered by calling 311 or emailing Access.Halton@halton.ca. Please indicate the number

of boxes you would like to order. Each box contains five tests. Rapid antigen tests will be distributed with your next vaccine order, upon request.

- When placing vaccine orders, health care providers can now choose to either:
 - Have vaccines couriered to their facility at their expense, or
 - Pick-up vaccines at the Halton Regional Centre at 1151 Bronte Road in Oakville on Tuesdays (9:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.) and Wednesdays (9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.)
- Orders will continue to be distributed every other week according to the [Vaccine Distribution Schedule](#). All vaccine orders must be submitted by the Wednesday prior to your scheduled delivery or pick-up date.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- [Interim guidance on the use of bivalent Omicron containing COVID-19 vaccines for primary series, NACI Statement](#)
- [COVID-19 Vaccine Guidance](#)
- [Scarborough Health Network's VaxFacts Clinics](#)
- [SickKids COVID-19 Learning Hub](#)

Please report all suspected/confirmed cases of [Diseases of Public Health Significance](#) (only report COVID-19 cases occurring in high-risk settings) to Public Health immediately by calling 311, 905-825-6000 or toll free at 1-866-442-5866.

PLEASE PROVIDE A COPY TO ALL PHYSICIANS IN YOUR OFFICE AND/OR POST IN EMERGENCY DEPARTMENTS AND PHYSICIAN LOUNGES. IF YOU HAVE ANY ISSUES WITH THIS ATTACHMENT, PLEASE EMAIL DOCTORS@HALTON.CA.