

## HALTON REGION PUBLIC HEALTH • Office of the Medical Officer of 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: September 6, 2023

RE: Fall Influenza and COVID-19 Vaccination Campaign

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### QUICK FACTS

- Starting this fall, individuals previously vaccinated against COVID-19 are recommended to receive a dose of the new formulation of COVID-19 vaccine. A seasonal influenza vaccine should also be offered to anyone 6 months of age and older.
- Starting in early October, influenza auto-shipments will be sent to your office via Halton's vaccine courier service. The auto-shipment schedule will be shared at the end of September. Your office will not be charged for auto-shipped vaccine deliveries.
- COVID-19 vaccines can be included with your influenza auto-shipment. Offices that want to receive COVID-19 vaccines with their influenza auto-shipment, must order COVID-19 vaccines using the [online vaccine ordering system](#). Order cut-off dates will be included with the auto-shipment schedule.
- Deliveries and pick-ups for routine and special order vaccines will be **paused for 2 weeks** to accommodate the auto-shipment schedule. During this time, routine and special orders will not be processed. Orders for high-risk vaccines will be approved on a case-by-case basis.
- Please review your vaccine inventory to ensure you have enough supply and fridge space for routine, special order, COVID-19 and influenza vaccines (as applicable).

### KEY MESSAGES FOR HEALTHCARE PROVIDERS

- This fall, a new COVID-19 vaccine product is expected to be available. This new product will be a monovalent XBB targeted formulation. Bivalent COVID-19 vaccine products will continue to be available, until the arrival of the XBB product. The original monovalent COVID-19 vaccines are no longer available for ordering.
- Influenza vaccines and the new formulation of COVID-19 vaccines are anticipated to be available starting in late September / early October. Vaccination of high-risk populations can start once these vaccines are available. It is anticipated that eligibility for the general population will open later in the campaign.
- While the new formulation of COVID-19 vaccines should be used for booster doses this fall, bivalent products can be used if this new formulation is not available.
- COVID-19 booster doses can be given if it has been at least 6 months from the previous COVID-19 vaccine dose or known SARS-CoV-2 infection (whichever is later).

- All health care providers are strongly encouraged to integrate COVID-19 vaccination with influenza and other routine vaccinations. To allow health care providers to offer COVID-19 and influenza vaccines in the same visit, COVID-19 vaccines can be included with influenza auto-shipments.
- To ensure that you are ready to start vaccinating of high-risk groups when vaccines become available in early October, health care providers should start making fall vaccination plans now.
- If your office is already set up to administer COVID-19 vaccines:
  - Have staff check their COVax access. If you have new staff who will require a COVax account this fall, or existing accounts have been de-activated, please email [COVIDVaccine@halton.ca](mailto:COVIDVaccine@halton.ca).
  - You will be receiving an updated Memorandum of Understanding from Public Health in the coming weeks. Please sign and return as soon as possible to continue being able to order COVID-19 vaccines.
- If you have not previously offered COVID-19 vaccines, consider completing the [COVID-19 Vaccine Onboarding Program](#). Once you have completed the onboarding process, you will be able to order and administer COVID-19 vaccines to your patients. Public health staff are available to support you throughout the process.
- The following table outlines the adjusted vaccine distribution schedule for routine and special order vaccines. Orders placed after the 'order by date' will not be processed until the 'next order by date.'

| Municipality | Order By Date | Delivery Date | Pick-up Date | <b>NOTICE</b>                                     | Next Order By Date | Next Delivery Date | Next Pick-Up Date |
|--------------|---------------|---------------|--------------|---|--------------------|--------------------|-------------------|
| Burlington   | Sept 13       | Sept 19       | Sept 19/20   | <b>NO DELIVERY / PICK-UP BETWEEN OCT 3 to 4</b>   | Oct 11             | Oct 17             | Oct 17/18         |
| Oakville     | Sept 13       | Sept 20       | Sept 19/20   | <b>NO DELIVERY / PICK-UP BETWEEN OCT 3 to 4</b>   | Oct 11             | Oct 18             | Oct 17/18         |
| Milton       | Sept 20       | Sept 26       | Sept 26/27   | <b>NO DELIVERY / PICK-UP BETWEEN OCT 10 to 11</b> | Oct 18             | Oct 24             | Oct 24/25         |
| Halton Hills | Sept 20       | Sept 27       | Sept 26/27   | <b>NO DELIVERY / PICK-UP BETWEEN OCT 10 to 11</b> | Oct 18             | Oct 25             | Oct 24/25         |

## ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- [Universal Influenza Immunization Program \(UIIP\)](#), Ministry of Health
- [Guidance on the use of COVID-19 Vaccines in the fall of 2023](#), National Advisory Committee on Immunization (NACI)
- [COVID-19 Vaccine Onboarding Program](#), Halton Region

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](mailto:DOCTORS@HALTON.CA).