

## COVID-19 VACCINE UPDATE #103 FROM HALTON REGION PUBLIC HEALTH

TEL: 905-825-6000 • TOLL FREE: 1-866-442-5866 • FAX: 905-825-1444

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

FROM: Dr. Joanna Oda, Associate Medical Officer of Health

DATE: April 10, 2023

RE: COVID-19 Vaccine Update 103: COVID-19 booster recommended for high-risk individuals this spring

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### QUICK FACTS

#### Recommended Populations

- The Ministry of Health has released its latest [guidance](#) regarding COVID-19 vaccines. Consistent with NACI's most recent [recommendations](#) and to further protect against COVID-19, the following high-risk groups are recommended to receive a spring COVID-19 booster if it has been at least six months since their last dose or confirmed COVID-19 infection:
  - Individuals aged 65 years and older;
  - Residents of long-term care homes, retirement homes, Elder Care Lodges, and other congregate living settings for seniors;
  - Individuals aged 18 years and older living in a congregate care setting for people with complex medical care needs;
  - Pregnant individuals;
  - Individuals aged 18 years and older who are [moderately to severely immunocompromised](#); and
  - Individuals aged 55 years and older who identify as First Nations, Inuit, or Métis and their non-Indigenous household members aged 55 years and older.
- Booster doses are no longer recommended at intervals less than six months since the last COVID-19 vaccine dose or a confirmed COVID-19 infection.
- For those outside of the high risk groups (listed above):
  - Individuals aged five and older who have completed a primary series who have not yet received a booster dose on or after September 1, 2022 remain recommended to receive a booster dose if it has been at least six months since their last dose or confirmed COVID-19 infection.
  - There is currently no evidence that substantiates the need for an additional dose at this time if a booster was already received on or after September 1, 2022.
  - Recommendations for future COVID-19 vaccine doses will be available closer to fall 2023.

### HOW TO OFFER COVID-19 VACCINE IN YOUR PRACTICE

- Protect your eligible staff and patients by providing an easy option for COVID-19 vaccination.

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).

- Visit the [onboarding webpage](#) or email [pharmacists@halton.ca](mailto:pharmacists@halton.ca) with any questions.
- Email your completed [clinic readiness checklist](#) and [Memorandum of Understanding](#) to [pharmacists@halton.ca](mailto:pharmacists@halton.ca)
- Complete the [OntarioMD COVax Training](#) and attend a Halton online onboarding session.
- Receive your COVax accounts and vaccine event information.
- Order COVID-19 vaccine [online](#). You can order as little as one vial at a time.

### KEY MESSAGES FOR PATIENTS

- Halton Region's COVID-19 community clinics will continue to offer boosters by appointment only. Patients can also locate and contact a [participating pharmacy](#) to receive their COVID-19 vaccine. Additional information on where to get vaccinated can be found on [Halton's website](#).

### ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- [Guidance on an additional COVID-19 booster dose in the spring of 2023 for individuals at high risk of severe illness due to COVID-19](#), NACI Statement
- [COVID-19 Vaccine Guidance](#)
- [Scarborough Health Network's VaxFacts Clinic](#)
- [SickKids COVID-19 Learning Hub](#)

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