

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: April 10, 2024

RE: Upcoming Spring COVID-19 vaccines, RSV vaccine program finishing and some backordered vaccines

QUICK FACTS

- Ontario's Spring COVID-19 vaccine campaign will run from April to June 2024. Individuals at increased risk of severe illness from COVID-19 are recommended to receive an additional dose of a COVID-19 vaccine during the spring campaign.
- The publicly funded high-risk Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) vaccine program is winding down for the season. As a result, the RSV Arexvy vaccine is no longer available for ordering.
- The recombinant zoster vaccine (Shingrix) and the pediatric hepatitis A vaccine (VAQTA Pediatric) are currently on backorder. Additional supply is expected later this month.

KEY MESSAGES FOR HEALTHCARE PROVIDERS

Ontario's COVID-19 vaccine 2024 Spring campaign

- Ontario's Spring COVID-19 vaccine campaign will run from April to June 2024.
- The Ministry of Health recommends that the following individuals who are at higher risk of severe illness from COVID-19 receive an additional dose of an XBB COVID-19 vaccine during the spring campaign:
 - Adults 65 years of age and older
 - Adult residents of long-term care homes and other congregate living settings for seniors
 - Individuals 6 months of age and older who are moderately to severely immunocompromised (due to an underlying condition or treatment)
 - Individuals 55 years and older who identify as First Nations, Inuit, or Métis and their non-Indigenous household members who are 55 years and older
- Individuals may receive a COVID-19 vaccine if it has been 6 months from the previous COVID-19 vaccine dose or known COVID-19 infection (whichever is later). However, NACI notes that a shorter interval (3 to < 6 months) can be used.
- All other individuals not currently recommended to receive a COVID-19 vaccine dose as part of the Spring campaign should wait until the Ministry of Health makes further recommendations regarding vaccination for the Fall 2024 vaccination campaign.

RSV Vaccine Program Wind Down

- The publicly funded high-risk Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) vaccine program is winding down for the season due to decreased incidence of RSV cases in Ontario.
- The RSV Arexvy vaccine is no longer available to order.

- Further guidance on RSV vaccination for the subsequent respiratory illness season will be provided closer to Fall 2024.

Vaccine Supply Update

- The recombinant zoster vaccine (Shingrix) and the pediatric hepatitis A vaccine (VAQTA Pediatric) are currently on backorder.
- Additional supply is expected later this month. Halton Region Public Health is unable to fulfill orders until additional supply arrives at the Public Health Unit.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- [COVID-19 Vaccine Guidance](#), Ministry of Health
- [Guidance on an additional dose of COVID-19 vaccines in the spring of 2024 for individuals at high risk of severe illness due to COVID-19](#), NACI
- [Onboard your primary care practice to provide COVID-19 vaccine](#), Halton Region Public Health
- [Respiratory Syncytial Virus \(RSV\)](#), Ministry of Health

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.