
SUBJECT: Spring 2023 COVID-19 Booster Campaign
Date: April 6, 2023
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To: Health Care Providers, Pharmacies, Hospitals
From: Dr. Matthew Tenenbaum, Associate Medical Officer of Health

- **Individuals at greater risk of severe COVID-19 illness should receive a booster dose this spring if it has been 6 months (168 days) since their last dose or infection.**
- **For those not at greater risk:**
 - **They should be offered a booster dose if they have not received one this fall/winter (since September 1, 2022).**
 - **Additional booster doses are not recommended at this time. However, they may still choose to receive a booster if it has been 6 months (168 days) since their last dose or infection.**
- **Additional recommendations regarding booster doses are anticipated in advance of the Fall 2023 season.**

On April 6, 2023, the Government of Ontario launched its Spring 2023 COVID-19 Booster Campaign.¹ This campaign focuses on specific high-risk populations including:

- Individuals 65 years and older;
- Residents of long-term care homes, retirement homes, elder care lodges, and other congregate living settings for seniors;
- Individuals 18 years and older living in congregate care settings for people with complex medical care needs;
- Pregnant individuals;
- Individuals 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.²

Individuals in these groups are at **greater risk of severe COVID-19 illness** and **should be offered another COVID-19 booster dose this spring**, provided it has been at least **6 months** (168 days) since their previous dose or COVID-19 infection. This recommendation aligns with guidance from NACI issued in March 2023.³

At this time, additional booster doses are not recommended for individuals outside of the groups listed above. However, these individuals **may choose to** receive another booster dose this spring if at least 6 months (168 days) have passed since their previous dose or COVID-19 infection. According to provincial guidance, there is no current evidence that substantiates the need for an additional dose if a booster was already received on or after September 1, 2022.²

Any individual age 5 years and older who **has not received a booster dose** since September 1, 2022 remains eligible for their fall/winter booster dose, and this dose **should be offered** this spring.

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Any individuals receiving a booster this spring should be offered a **bivalent mRNA vaccine** authorized for their age group.

Additional recommendations regarding booster doses are expected in advance of the Fall 2023 season. Individuals who are eligible for a booster this spring should consider receiving that booster sooner, rather than later, in order to avoid impacting their eligibility date this fall.

Staying Up To Date

Everyone in the community is encouraged to stay up to date with their COVID-19 vaccines, as outlined in the table below.

Group	Staying Up To Date means...
Age 6 months to 4 years	Having received a primary series
Age 5 and older , not at greater risk of severe disease	Having received a primary series AND a booster dose since September 1, 2022
Age 5 and older , and at greater risk of severe disease	Having received a primary series AND a booster dose within the last 6 months

Ordering Vaccine

To order vaccine fax a completed [order form](#) and [temperature logs](#) to 519-823-4903. Orders will be filled up to Thursday at noon for delivery the following week. Pick-up through the week at a public health office can also be arranged. Use [this link](#) to order single-dose syringes for pick up at select clinic locations.

References:

1. Government of Ontario. COVID-19 Booster Recommended for High-Risk Individuals This Spring, April 6, 2023. Available at: <https://news.ontario.ca/en/release/1002908/covid-19-booster-recommended-for-high-risk-individuals-this-spring>
2. Government of Ontario, Ministry of Health. COVID-19 Vaccine Guidance, April 6, 2023. Available at: https://www.health.gov.on.ca/en/pro/programs/publichealth/coronavirus/docs/vaccine/COVID-19_vaccine_administration.pdf
3. Government of Canada. 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, March 3, 2023. Available at: <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/publications/vaccines-immunization/national-advisory-committee-immunization-guidance-additional-covid-19-booster-dose-spring-2023-individuals-high-risk-severe-illness-due-covid-19.html>

For more information, please contact:

Name/Title: Dr. Matthew Tenenbaum, Associate Medical Officer of Health
Email: matthew.tenenbaum@wdgpublichealth.ca
Website: www.wdgpublichealth.ca