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COVID-19 Vaccine: Update #55 Second Booster Dose Eligibility Open to Everyone 18+ and Updated Guidance on Intervals

Attention: Physicians, Emergency Departments, Hospital CEOs, Hospital Laboratories, Infection Control Practitioners, Occupational Health Practitioners, Walk-In Clinics/Urgent Care Clinics, Nurse and Nurse Practitioners, EMS, Designated Officers, Midwives, Family Health Teams, Pharmacies, Central LHIN, NSM LHIN, Beausoleil First Nation, Moose Deer Point First Nation, Rama First Nation, Wahta First Nation, Long-term Care Homes, Retirement Homes, Hospices, Coroners, Funeral Directors, Dentists, Group Homes, Homes for Special Care, Optometrists, Corrections, Municipalities, Licensed Child Care Providers

Date: July 13, 2022

Everyone 18+ now Eligible for Second Booster Doses

The province has expanded eligibility to anyone 18 years of age and older who wants to receive a second booster and who received their last dose of COVID-19 vaccine at least five months (140 days) ago (minimum of three months with informed consent).

- A second booster corresponds to a fourth dose among eligible immunocompetent individuals, as they have a recommended two-dose primary series.
- A second booster corresponds to a 5th dose among individuals that have a recommended three-dose primary series (e.g., moderately to severely immunocompromised individuals, individuals who received non-Health Canada authorized COVID-19 vaccines).

While most individuals aged 18 to 59 years old continue to have strong protection more than six months after their first booster dose, those who want to receive a second booster dose can now do so. The second booster dose in this age group provides the most benefits to those who are more susceptible to severe COVID illness: this includes those with pre-existing medical conditions and those who have medically vulnerable persons around them. The incremental benefit from the second booster is currently understood from the data to be lower than the incremental benefit from the first booster in this age group.



A new bivalent COVID-19 vaccine is anticipated to be approved by Health Canada this fall, which may offer more targeted protection against the Omicron variants. It is anticipated that a five-month interval will continue to be recommended between previous booster doses and fall doses of bivalent vaccine when available, the minimum interval will likely continue to be three months. Therefore, someone receiving a second booster now would most likely still be eligible for that bivalent vaccine when it becomes available.

The following high-risk individuals have been eligible and continue to be recommended to receive their second booster dose as soon as possible:

- Individuals aged 60 and over;
- First Nation, Inuit and Métis individuals and their non-Indigenous household members aged 18 and over;
- Residents of a long-term care home, retirement home, or Elder Care Lodge and older adults living in other congregate settings that provide assisted-living and health services; and
- [Individuals who are moderately to severely immunocompromised.](#)

The following options for COVID-19 vaccination are available at this time:

- [Local pharmacies](#)
- Health Unit office-based clinics throughout Simcoe Muskoka - appointments available through the [Provincial Vaccine Appointment Booking System](#)
- Community clinic at Georgian Mall in Barrie - appointments available through the [Provincial Vaccine Appointment Booking System](#) – walk-ins may be accommodated based on demand.
- [RVH COVID-19 vaccination clinic](#) at 29 Sperling Drive in Barrie – appointments available through the Provincial Vaccine Appointment Booking System and walk ins may be accommodated based on demand.
- [Couchiching OHT COVID-19 vaccination clinic](#) in Orillia at OSMH Kiwanis Building - West Entrance, 170 Colborne St. West.
- GO-VAXX bus throughout Simcoe Muskoka – to access the schedule [click here](#)

Updated COVID-19 Immunization Series & Recommended Intervals

Age	Recommended Intervals	Minimum Intervals
5 to 11 years (or 6-11 years, Moderna)	Primary Series <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1st dose • 2nd dose, 8 weeks after 1st dose Booster Doses - Not eligible	Primary Series <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1st dose • 2nd dose, 19 days (Pfizer) or 21 days (Moderna) after 1st dose Booster Doses - Not eligible
12 to 17 years	Primary Series <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1st dose • 2nd dose, 8 weeks after 1st dose Booster Doses <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1st booster dose 6 months after 2nd dose • 2nd booster dose – not eligible 	Primary Series <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1st dose • 2nd dose, 19 days (Pfizer-BioNTech) or 21 days (Moderna) after 1st dose Booster Doses <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1st booster dose 3 months after 2nd dose • 2nd booster dose – not eligible
18+	Primary Series <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1st dose • 2nd dose, 8 weeks after 1st dose Booster Doses <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1st booster dose, 5 months after 2nd dose • 2nd booster dose, 5 months after first booster 	Primary Series <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1st dose • 2nd dose, 19 days (Pfizer-BioNTech) or 21 days (Moderna) after 1st dose Booster Doses <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1st booster dose, 3 months after 2nd dose • 2nd booster dose, 3 months after first booster

Age	Recommended Intervals	Minimum Intervals
Moderately or severely immuno-compromised individuals ≥5 years	<p>Primary Series</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1st dose • 2nd dose, 8 weeks after 1st dose • 3rd dose, 8 weeks after 2nd dose <p>Booster Doses</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1st booster dose <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ (if 5-11) not eligible ○ (if 12-17) 6 months ○ (if 18+) 5 months after 3rd dose • 2nd booster dose <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ (if 5-17) not eligible ○ (if 18+) 5 months after first booster 	<p>Primary Series</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1st dose • 2nd dose, 19 days (Pfizer-BioNTech) or 21 days (Moderna) after 1st dose • 3rd dose, 28 days after 2nd dose <p>Booster Doses</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1st booster dose <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ (if 5-11) not eligible ○ (if 12+) 3 months after 3rd dose • 2nd booster dose <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ (if 5-17) not eligible ○ (if 18+) 3 months after first booster dose

Clarification on Recommended Interval for Booster Doses

The recommended interval for first or second booster doses is five months (140 days). Boosters can be given as soon as three months (84 days) with informed consent.

Clarification on Current 5th Dose Eligibility

Only those who are severely / moderately immunocompromised (received a 3 dose primary series) are eligible for 5th doses. All LTCH/Rhome/Elder Lodge residents are not eligible for 5th doses, only those who are severely/moderately immunocompromised.

Additional COVID-19 Vaccine Information

For more information about the rollout of COVID-19 vaccine in our area, please refer to the SMDHU [COVID-19 Vaccine and Immunization](#) webpages.

There are a number of COVID-19 resources and documents available through our Health Professional Portal at www.smdhu.org/hpportal as well as through [Public Health Ontario](#) and the [Government of Ontario](#).