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## Further Extension to Eligibility Timelines for Shingles Vaccine, Grade 7 Program (Hep B, Men-C-ACWY, HPV) and High-Risk Program Delayed Due to COVID-19

**Attention:** Physicians, Nurse and Nurse Practitioners, Walk-In Clinics/Urgent Care Clinics, Family Health Teams, Ontario Health Teams, Infection Prevention & Control Practitioners, Indigenous Health Care & Community, Ontario Health Central, Municipalities

**Date:** January 22, 2024

The Ministry of Health recently announced further extension of the eligibility timelines for those who have been delayed in receiving some age-based and high-risk vaccines during the COVID-19 pandemic. Additional details can be found in the [Guidance for Routine & Catch-Up Immunization Services \(Version 5 – January 2024\)](#). This document also provides guidance on completing interrupted schedules for vaccines containing tetanus, diphtheria, pertussis, polio, haemophilus influenzae type B (HIB), and pneumococcal conjugate vaccine.

For all other missed or delayed publicly funded vaccines not included in the above guidance document, use table 4 to 24 in the [Publicly Funded Immunization Schedules for Ontario \(June 2022\)](#) to assist with determining schedules and intervals between doses. A reminder that if a vaccine dose has been delayed, the individual should be immunized at the earliest opportunity. As per the Canadian Immunization Guide (CIG) in general, interruption of a vaccine series does not require restarting the series as delays between doses do not result in a reduction in final antibody concentrations for most products (except for cholera and rabies vaccines).

### Extended Eligibility for Herpes Zoster (Shingles) Vaccine

Vaccine	Current eligibility	Impacted cohort	Remains eligible for missed doses until
HZ (Shingrix)	65 to 70 years old	Seniors born in 1949, 1950, 1951, 1952 and 1953	Dec 31, 2024



## Extended Eligibility for Grade 7 School Program Vaccines (Hep B, Men-C-ACWY, & HPV)

Vaccine	Current eligibility	Impacted cohort	Remains eligible for missed doses until	Special considerations
Hep B (Recombivax or Engerix)	Grades 7 to 12 <sup>a</sup>	Students who graduated in the 2022/23 school year (born in 2005 <sup>b</sup> , and 2006) <sup>b</sup>	Aug 31, 2024 (must complete series)	These vaccines are typically provided through school-based clinics; however, if health care providers have eligible patients requesting a vaccine, contact the local health unit for a special release access to administer the vaccine(s) directly.
HPV-9 (Gardasil 9)	Grades 7 to 12	Students who graduated in the 2019/20 <sup>c</sup> , 2020/21 <sup>c</sup> , 2021/22 and 2022/23 school years (born in 2002, 2003, or 2004, 2005 and 2006) <sup>d</sup>	Aug 31, 2024 (must complete series)	
Men-C-ACYW135 (Nimenrix)	Grades 7 to 12 and those born in or after 1997	N/A	Remains eligible until vaccine is received	

<sup>a</sup> As of September 2022, students in grades 7 through 12 are eligible for Hep B vaccine.

<sup>b</sup> Individuals aged 16 years and older require a 3-dose Hep B immunization schedule as per the CIG

<sup>c</sup> Females only as per publicly funded program criteria. Males in grade 7 became eligible in 2016. These males were born in 2004.

<sup>d</sup> Individuals aged 15 years and older require a 3-dose HPV-9 immunization schedule as per CIG

## Extended Eligibility for High-Risk Vaccines

Vaccine	Current eligibility	Impacted cohort	Remains eligible for missed doses until	Special considerations
HPV-9 <sup>e</sup> (Gardasil)	Males 9 to 26 years	Males born in 1993, 1994, 1995, 1996, and 1997	Dec 31, 2024	
4CMenB <sup>f</sup> (Bexsero)	2 months to 17 years	Individuals born in 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005 and 2006	Dec 31, 2024	
Men-C-ACYW135 (Menactra) (Nimenrix)	9 months to 55 years <sup>g</sup>	Individuals born in 1964 <sup>h</sup> , 1965 <sup>i</sup> , 1966 <sup>j</sup> 1967 and 1968	Dec 31, 2024	

<sup>e,f</sup> Age of the impacted cohorts falls within the Health Canada product monograph age indications for product use

<sup>g</sup> Ontario publicly funds a single lifetime dose of Men-C-ACYW135 for individuals ≥56 years of age who meet high risk eligibility criteria listed in Table 3: High Risk Vaccine Programs of the Publicly Funded Schedules for Ontario (2022)

<sup>h,i,j</sup> Under the program extension high risk individuals born in 1964, 1965 and 1966 are eligible for 2 doses of Men-C-ACYW135, since they would have been 55 years of age in 2020, 2021 and 2022, respectively. Administration of two doses in these cohorts aligns with NACI recommendations based on expert opinion to as the product monographs limits age indication to 55 years of age.

Students who are currently in grades 7 or 8 should receive their school program vaccines (Hep B, Men-C-ACWY, & HPV) at school. These vaccines are only released to primary care providers for these students in extenuating circumstances.

The health unit is continuing to offer catch-up clinics in all our offices for students in grade 9 and older who remain eligible for the school program vaccines as per the table above. Students can visit our website to [book an appointment online](#). Alternatively, primary care providers can order school program vaccines for students currently in grade 9 through the extended eligibility cohorts above by submitting a [High School Student Hep B & HPV Vaccine Catch Up Order Form](#).

To order vaccines for those eligible for high-risk vaccine programs, continue to use the [Special Vaccine Order Form](#).

If you have any questions regarding the above information, please contact the Immunization Program at 705-721-7520 or 1-877-721-7520 ext 8806.