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## Spring Immunization Program Updates: Infant RSV Program Ended for This Season, Older Adult RSV Program to Continue, Spring Dose of COVID-19 Vaccine Recommended for Some High-Risk Groups

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

**Date:** April 8, 2025

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### Infant RSV Vaccine Program to End for This Season

The 2024-2025 infant and high-risk children RSV prevention program has now ended. Doses of Beyfortus and Abrysvo should no longer be ordered or administered to infants, children, or pregnant individuals. To ensure protection through respiratory season, it is recommended children receive their dose of Beyfortus in the Fall as the immunization offers 6 months of protection. Similarly, passive protection from pregnant people being vaccinated to their babies only lasts 6 months, therefore vaccination of pregnant people is also to be discontinued at this time. **All health care facilities with remaining unexpired doses of Beyfortus or Abrysvo must safely store their supply for use starting again in the Fall.** We will provide more information on eligibility for the 2025/2026 season when available.

### Older Adult RSV Vaccine Program to Continue

Available evidence demonstrates that a single dose of RSV vaccine provides protection in older adults for at least two years. Therefore, **vaccination of eligible older adults who have not yet been vaccinated for RSV can continue through the Spring.** The following groups continue to be eligible:

- Residents of long-term care homes, Elder Care Lodges, or retirement homes including similar settings (e.g., co-located facilities).
- Patients in hospital receiving alternate level of care (ALC) including similar settings.
- Patients receiving hemodialysis or peritoneal dialysis.
- Recipients of solid organ or hematopoietic stem cell transplants.
- Individuals experiencing homelessness.
- Individuals who identify as First Nations, Inuit, or Métis.

Anyone in these groups who has already received RSV vaccine is not to receive an additional dose at this time.



Health care providers, long term care homes and other health care facilities can continue to order RSV vaccine from the health unit using the [Adult High-Risk RSV Vaccine Order Form](#).

### **Spring COVID-19 Vaccine Dose Recommended for Some High-Risk Groups**

Over the past several years, the National Advisory Committee on Immunization (NACI) has recommended individuals receive the updated COVID-19 vaccine annually. Receiving an updated vaccine is expected to offer additional protection against SARS-CoV-2 infection and severe COVID-19 disease since the strain(s) in the updated vaccines are likely to be more closely related to circulating strains, and for those who were previously immunized, is expected to increase the immune response that has waned over time. The COVID-19 vaccine program will become an annual program aligning with the Universal Influenza Immunization Program (UIIP), which will occur over a 12-month period starting in September and ending in August.

**In alignment with NACI, the Ministry of Health recently updated the [COVID-19 Vaccine Guidance](#) and is offering an additional dose of COVID-19 vaccine now for previously vaccinated individuals who are at increased risk of SARS-CoV-2 infection including:**

- Adults 65 years of age and older
  - NACI recommends that **those 80 years and older should receive** an additional dose of vaccine while **those 65 to 79 years of age may receive** an additional dose of vaccine.
- 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 Metis and their non-Indigenous household members who are 55 years and older.

**Individuals who are not included in these high-risk groups are not recommended to receive COVID-19 vaccine in the Spring regardless of if dose(s) were received in the Fall. These individuals are recommended to wait until Fall 2025 to be vaccinated to ensure optimal protection against circulating strains at that time.**

The current Omicron KP.2 formulation is to be used for Spring doses, with an updated formulation expected for Fall. For more detailed information, refer to the [COVID-19 Vaccine Guidance](#) document.

Those who are eligible for a Spring COVID-19 vaccine can access the vaccine now through local pharmacies. People are encouraged to call their local pharmacy ahead of time to ensure vaccine availability. The health unit does have limited COVID-19 clinic capacity for high-risk children under 5 years of age if there is no local pharmacy in their community vaccinating young children.

Health care providers, long term care homes and other health care facilities can order COVID-19 vaccine from the health unit using the [COVID-19 Vaccine Order form](#). If you have new staff requiring access and training for COVAX-ON, please email [covaxsupport@smdhu.org](mailto:covaxsupport@smdhu.org) and a health unit staff will follow up to provide details. Those with COVAX-ON accounts need to login monthly or their account will deactivate automatically. If you have staff with a COVAX-ON account that has become inactive, please email [covaxsupport@smdhu.org](mailto:covaxsupport@smdhu.org). Those who only need their password reset can contact the COVAX-ON Ministry support directly at 1-888-333-0640.

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.