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## COVID-19 Vaccine: Update #52 Novavax, Medicago, Boosters, Post-Infection Guidance, Local Clinic Updates & ISPA

**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:** March 10, 2022

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It is anticipated that two new COVID-19 vaccines will be made available by the Ministry of Health in the coming months:

### Novavax Nuvaxovid<sup>®</sup> COVID-19 Vaccine

- National Advisory Committee on Immunization (NACI) statement:
  - [Recommendations on the use of Novavax Nuvaxovid COVID-19 vaccine](#)
  - [Summary of the NACI statement of February 17, 2022](#)
- Authorized for individuals aged 18 and over, as a 2 dose series.
- The Novavax Nuvaxovid<sup>®</sup> COVID-19 vaccine is a recombinant protein subunit vaccine. Clinical trials show that it is efficacious and has a good safety profile. This vaccine is a new option for people who have been unable or unwilling to receive an mRNA COVID-19 vaccine. NACI will continue to monitor the evidence on this vaccine as it is used in the real world.
- NACI continues to preferentially recommend that a complete primary series of an mRNA COVID-19 vaccine (Pfizer-BioNTech Comirnaty, Moderna Spikevax) should be offered to individuals in the authorized age group without contraindications to the vaccine.
- NACI recommends that Novavax Nuvaxovid<sup>®</sup> may be offered to individuals in the authorized age group without contraindications to the vaccine who are not able or willing to receive an mRNA COVID-19 vaccine.
- NACI recommends that a complete primary series of a viral vector COVID-19 vaccine (AstraZeneca Vaxzevria, Janssen) may be offered to individuals in the authorized age group without contraindications to the vaccine only when all other authorized COVID-19 vaccines are contraindicated.



- Clinical trials show the Novavax Nuvaxovid<sup>®</sup> COVID-19 vaccine is efficacious and has a good safety profile. This vaccine is a new option for people who have been unable or unwilling to receive an mRNA COVID-19 vaccine. NACI will continue to monitor the evidence on this vaccine as it is used in the real world.

**Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit (SMDHU) will order Novavax Nuvaxovid<sup>®</sup> vaccine and have available for health care providers to order. This vaccine is anticipated to be available by the end of March. Once our shipment has been confirmed we will add it to our COVID-19 vaccine order form.**

### **Medicago Covifenz<sup>®</sup> COVID-19 Vaccine**

- [Health Canada authorized](#) for use in individuals aged 18-64, as a 2 dose series.
  - [Product monograph](#)
  - Awaiting NACI statement.
- Medicago Covifenz<sup>®</sup> is a plant-based virus-like particles [VLP], recombinant, adjuvanted vaccine.
- Clinical trials found a vaccine efficacy of 71% against COVID-19 infection. The data suggests efficacy against multiple variants, including Delta and Gamma, Alpha, Lambda and Mu.

SMDHU will order Medicago vaccine for our jurisdiction when it is available, anticipated to be May 2022. Once our shipment has been confirmed we will add it to our COVID-19 vaccine order form.

### **Third Dose/Boosters for Priority Populations**

Data from ICES demonstrates that there is a continued need to engage priority groups for third dose/booster uptake, with Simcoe Muskoka third dose coverage as of February 6, 2022 as follows:

- Immunocompromising health conditions (varies by condition)
- Currently pregnant (31%)
- Intellectual disability (35%)
- Substance use disorder (27%)
- Severe mental illness (34%)
- Recent refugees (20%) and other recent immigrants (33%)
- Recent experience with homelessness (19%)

Booster doses also remain a priority for the whole eligible population age 12+, and in particular those 50+ who are at greater risk for severe disease (72% current coverage for 50+).

### **Suggested Intervals Between Previous SARS-CoV-2 Infection and COVID-19 Vaccination**

Ontario, in alignment with NACI, continues to recommend that COVID-19 vaccines should be offered to individuals with previous SARS-CoV-2 infection without contraindications to the vaccine. Below are suggested intervals between previous SARS-CoV-2 infection and COVID-19 vaccination.

Infection timing relative to COVID-19 vaccination	Population	Suggested interval between infection* and vaccination
Infection prior to completion or initiation of primary vaccination series	Individuals 5 years of age and older who are not considered moderately to severely immunocompromised and with no previous history of multisystem inflammatory syndrome in children (MIS-C)	Receive the vaccine 8 weeks after symptom onset or positive test (if asymptomatic)
	Individuals 5 years of age and older who are moderately to severely immunocompromised and with no previous history of MIS-C	Receive the vaccine dose 4 to 8 weeks after symptom onset or positive test (if asymptomatic)
	Individuals 5 years of age and older with a previous history of MIS-C (regardless of immunocompromised status)	Receive the vaccine dose when clinical recovery has been achieved or ≥90 days since the onset of MIS-C, whichever is longer
Infection after primary series but before booster dose	Individuals 12 years of age and older currently eligible for a booster dose	3 months after symptom onset or positive test (if asymptomatic) and, for 12 to 17 year olds, provided it is at least 6 months (168 days) from completing the primary series

### COVID-19 Clinic Location/Times Updates

As of March 19, 2022 we are moving to a walk-in model for our COVID-19 community clinics ([clinic schedule](#)), and our clinic times during the week will be 12:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. and 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. on week-ends.

As of March 31, 2022, we are closing some of our community-based clinics with the exceptions of Georgian Mall clinic in Barrie and the Orillia YMCA clinic. The 29 Sperling Dr. Barrie clinic has also determined to remain open ([clinic schedule](#)). With the substantial decline in COVID-19 vaccine uptake recently, we are focusing our clinic staff to start catching up high school students who missed their grade 7 vaccines during the pandemic.

We have been focusing on pop-up clinics and school-based clinics throughout Simcoe and Muskoka, in particular where community-based clinics are not operating, and we will continue to offer these throughout March and April.

### Routine Childhood Immunizations and Immunization of School Pupils Act (ISPA)

As we transition some of our focus to routine immunization this spring, we hope to start sending our immunization letters to families where children are overdue for their routine vaccinations. Please ensure that you have vaccine in your fridges and encourage families that are receiving vaccine in primary care offices to report to SMDHU online via <https://smdhu.icon.ehealthontario.ca/#!/welcome>.

### **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](http://www.smdhu.org/hpportal) as well as through [Public Health Ontario](#) and the [Government of Ontario](#).