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## COVID-19 Vaccine: Update #53 Fourth Dose Booster Update, Novavax Nuvaxovid, Community Clinics, School Vaccines

**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:** April 7, 2022

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### Fourth Dose (2<sup>nd</sup> Booster) Update

On April 6, 2022, the province expanded eligibility for an additional booster for individuals 60 years of age and older as well as First Nation, Inuit, and Metis individuals, and their non-indigenous household members, 18 years of age and older starting April 7, 2022.

Individuals 60 years of age and older are at increased risk of severe disease, hospitalization, and death from COVID-19. Many of these individuals are several months past their third (booster) which may lead to increased vulnerability due to waning immunity. **A fourth (booster) dose *should* be offered to those 60 years of age and older who received their third (booster) dose 5 months (140 days) prior. A fourth (booster) dose may be received at a minimum interval of 3 months (84 days) after the third (booster) dose.**

**First Nation, Inuit and Metis individuals and their non-indigenous household members, 18 years of age and older, *may* be offered a fourth (booster) dose 5 months (140 days) after their third dose at the discretion of their health care provider. The minimum interval for the fourth (booster) dose is 3 months (84 days) after the third (booster) dose. NACI indicates that this dose may be considered among adults younger than 70 years of age in or from First Nations, Métis, or Inuit communities, as these communities have a younger age distribution but increased risk for severe disease due to a variety of intersecting factors including underlying medical conditions and potential decreased access to health care.**



Intervals for fourth doses:

- FNIM (First Nations, Inuit and Metis) clients 18+ by date of birth (DOB) with 3 doses of Health Canada authorized COVID-19 vaccine including mixed primary series (in Ontario or Out of Province) are eligible to receive a fourth dose at an interval of 140 days (5 months). This includes non-indigenous family members residing in the same household.
- Clients 60+ by DOB with 3 doses of Health Canada authorized vaccine COVID-19 vaccines including mixed primary series (in Ontario or Out of Province) are eligible to receive a fourth dose at a recommended interval of 140 days (5 months). Eligible clients can book their fourth dose at an interval of 84 days (3 months) as a minimum interval.

Evidence on second booster vaccine effectiveness is limited and has mainly been assessed as a relative benefit compared to the first booster. Preliminary data indicates that a second booster dose provides additional protection compared to a first booster, including against severe disease. However, the duration of protection is currently unknown, and the absolute benefit will depend on the residual protection from the first booster dose and on the level of circulating disease in the community.

Preliminary data also indicate that the safety of a second booster of an mRNA COVID-19 vaccine is comparable to previous doses. Overall, from both Canadian and international safety surveillance data, NACI indicates that a second booster of mRNA COVID-19 vaccine was well tolerated, and no new safety signal was identified. However, this second booster was generally administered in specific populations (e.g., long term care residents, older adults) or in small groups. Evidence monitoring is ongoing.

The 2nd booster is the same as the 1<sup>st</sup> booster in terms of vaccine options (Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna for most individuals), considerations (Moderna is to be used in 18-29 years old, and may be preferable in older adults), and dosing (Moderna 0.5 mL for 70+ and 0.25 mL for under 70 years old).

### **Novavax Nuvaxovid® COVID-19 Vaccine**

The Novavax Nuvaxovid vaccine is a new COVID-19 vaccine option available in Ontario for people who have been unable, due to contraindications, or not willing to receive an mRNA COVID-19 vaccine. A primary series of the Novavax Nuvaxovid COVID-19 vaccine is currently considered to be two doses. People may receive two doses of the Novavax Nuvaxovid vaccine or a mixed primary series (one dose of the Novavax Nuvaxovid vaccine and one dose of another COVID-19 vaccine). If receiving a mixed primary series with the Novavax Nuvaxovid vaccine, informed consent should include discussion of the benefits and potential risks given the currently limited data on the effectiveness and safety of mixed schedules with the Novavax Nuvaxovid vaccine. The Novavax Nuvaxovid COVID-19 vaccine may be offered as a booster dose, with informed consent, to people who are not able or not willing to receive an mRNA vaccine, regardless of which COVID-19 vaccines were received in the primary series. This recommendation is off-label, as the Novavax Nuvaxovid COVID-19 vaccine is not currently authorized for use by Health Canada as a booster dose in Canada.

For simultaneous administration with other vaccines, NACI recommends that mRNA, viral vector and recombinant protein subunit (Novavax Nuvaxovid) COVID-19 vaccines may be given simultaneously with

(i.e. same day), or at any time before or after, non-COVID-19 vaccines (including live and non-live vaccines).

For individuals with serious polyethylene glycol (PEG) allergy or previous serious allergic reaction to an mRNA vaccine precluding vaccination with mRNA vaccines, Novavax Nuvaxovid may be the preferred product for vaccination, based on consultation with an allergist or other appropriate physician or nurse practitioner.

SMDHU will have this vaccine for ordering. If you wish to have it in your office, we anticipate delivery of Novavax Nuvaxovid into our office the week of April 11, 2021, and our [COVID-19 Vaccine Order Form](#) will be updated accordingly. The vaccine comes in 10-dose vials, no mixing is required, however once punctured it is only stable for 6 hours from first puncture. Alternatively, if you have patients interested in this vaccine, they can complete our online [Request Form](#) to be put on a waitlist for our Novavax clinics.

### **COVID-19 Clinic Location/Times Updates**

SMDHU has moved to a walk-in model for our COVID-19 community clinics, and our clinic times will be 12:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. during the week and 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. on week-ends. Community clinic and pop-up clinics are posted on our [website](#). We currently are operating the Georgian Mall clinic in Barrie and the Orillia YMCA clinic. The [COVID-19 vaccination clinic \(RVH\)](#) at 29 Sperling Drive in Barrie and [OSMH COVID-19 vaccination clinic](#) also remain open.

### **Grade 7 School Vaccination Catch-Up**

Grade 7 vaccination program catch-up has started this week throughout Simcoe and Muskoka with a focus on high school students who are now in grade 9 & 10. Primary care providers can continue to order grade 7 catch-up vaccine from [SMDHU Barrie, Collingwood, Cookstown, Midland](#) offices or [SMDHU Gravenhurst, Huntsville, Orillia](#) offices for their patients. Please remind parents to update their child's immunization records on our secure online system: <https://smdhu.icon.ehealthontario.ca/#!/welcome>.

### **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](#).