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COVID-19 Vaccine: Update #63

COVID-19 Vaccination Updates & Planning for Spring

COVID-19 Vaccination Program

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, Ontario Health Central, 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 9, 2023

COVID-19 continues to impact our community, and vaccination remains the best way to protect against severe illness and hospitalization, especially for those most at risk of severe disease. It is important to continue to recommend vaccination for any patients who have not received a primary series or who have not received their recommended booster doses to ensure ongoing protection.

At this time, we continue to recommend:

- A primary series of vaccine for everyone 6 months of age and older.
- A booster dose for everyone 5 years of age and older given after September 1st, 2022, and at least 6 months from their last dose or previous COVID-19 infection.
- Boosters are currently not recommended for 6 months through 4 years.

Bivalent Omicron-targeting mRNA COVID-19 vaccines continue to be the preferred booster products.

A provincial spring COVID-19 booster campaign is expected to be announced in early April, which will likely recommend a spring booster for those who are at risk of severe illness from COVID-19. We will share those details once available.

In the meantime, the National Advisory Committee on Immunization (NACI) released their updated recommendations last week, [Guidance on an additional COVID-19 booster dose in the spring of 2023 for individuals at high risk of severe illness due to COVID-19](#).



According to this updated guidance NACI has recommended starting in the spring of 2023, an additional booster dose may be offered 6 or more months from the last COVID-19 vaccine dose or infection to the following individuals who are at increased risk of severe illness from COVID-19: (Discretionary NACI recommendation):

- Adults 80 years of age and older.
- Adults 65 to 79 years of age, particularly if they do not have a known history of SARS-CoV-2 infection.
- Adult residents of long-term care homes and other congregate living settings for seniors or those with complex medical care needs.
- Adults 18 years of age and older who are moderately to severely immunocompromised due to an underlying condition or treatment.

Individuals who have not received previously recommended doses, including a primary series or fall 2022 booster dose, are recommended to receive them now.

For more information:

For more detailed information about eligibility and guidance, please refer to the [Ministry of Health COVID-19 Vaccine Guidance](#) document.

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](#) as well as through [Public Health Ontario](#) and the [Government of Ontario](#).

To help you determine the best ways to protect yourself and others from COVID-19 infection and serious illness, refer to the SMDHU [COVID-19 Community Risk Tool](#).