
SUBJECT: COVID-19 Booster Doses – Updates regarding Second Boosters
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To: Health Care Providers, Pharmacies, Hospitals, Assessment Centres
From: Dr. Matthew Tenenbaum, Associate Medical Officer of Health

On April 6, 2022, the Government of Ontario [announced expanded eligibility¹](#) for second COVID-19 booster doses (i.e., fourth doses) to individuals aged 60 and over as well as First Nation, Inuit and Métis individuals and their non-Indigenous household members aged 18 and over. This builds upon the existing work to offer second boosters to residents of long-term care homes and other congregate settings, which began this winter. For more eligibility information visit: wdgpublichealth.ca/booster-dose

The optimal interval for a second booster is five months (140 days) following the first booster. However, eligible individuals can choose to receive it as early as three months (84 days) following the first booster with informed consent.

Moderately or severely immunocompromised individuals who are eligible for a three-dose primary series are not presently eligible for a second booster (i.e., a fifth dose). However, it is particularly important that these individuals receive their first booster (i.e., fourth dose).

The expanded eligibility for second boosters follows the release of [new guidance from the National Advisory Committee on Immunization \(NACI\)²](#). Additional information can also be found in the [updated Ministry of Health guidance³](#) regarding booster doses.

Eligible individuals have three options for accessing their booster dose:

1. Booking an appointment with their primary care provider
2. Visiting any [pharmacy that offers COVID-19 vaccines](#)
3. Booking an appointment at a Public Health clinic online (wdgpublichealth.ca/appointments) or by calling 1-800-265-7293 x7006 (Monday – Friday; 9 A.M. – 4 P.M.)

References:

1. Province of Ontario. News Release: Ontario Expanding Fourth-Dose Eligibility, April 6, 2022. Accessed: April 8, 2022. Available at: <https://news.ontario.ca/en/release/1001961/ontario-expanding-fourth-dose-eligibility>
2. National Advisory Committee on Immunization. An Advisory Committee Statement (ACS) National Advisory Committee on Immunization (NACI)- Initial guidance on a second booster dose of COVID-19 vaccines in Canada, April 5, 2022. Accessed: April 8, 2022. Available at: <https://www.canada.ca/content/dam/phac-aspc/documents/services/immunization/national-advisory-committee-on-immunization-naci/naci-guidance-second-booster-dose-covid-19-vaccines.pdf>
3. Ministry of Health. COVID-19 Vaccine Third Dose and Booster Recommendations, Version 8.0, April 6, 2022. Accessed: April 8, 2022. Available at: https://www.health.gov.on.ca/en/pro/programs/publichealth/coronavirus/docs/vaccine/COVID-19_vaccine_third_dose_recommendations.pdf

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