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**SUBJECT:** Scaling up Immunizations in response to the Omicron Variant  
**Date:** December 13, 2021  
**Pages:** 1  
**To:** Primary Care Providers  
**From:** Dr. Matthew Tenenbaum, Associate Medical Officer of Health

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As part of the province-wide response to the Omicron variant, Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph (WDG) Public Health is accelerating delivery of booster doses to eligible populations within our region. Beginning today, adults aged 50 and over (born in 1971 or earlier) are eligible to receive a booster 168 days after their second dose.

We are still learning about the characteristics of the Omicron variant. However, based on our experience with previous variants, we expect that age will be the most important risk factor for morbidity and mortality following infection. It is critically important that we optimize protection as best we can for those at greatest risk of severe outcomes.

**WDG Public Health is asking local primary care partners to provide as much additional capacity as possible to support the administration of booster doses over the next two weeks.** Dr. Kieran Moore and others at the Ministry of Health have issued a similar ‘call to action’ to the provincial Primary Care Collaborative. Immunizations are considered the top priority of the health system for the next two weeks, and the provincial goal is to immunize three million eligible adults. While it is important to maintain urgent and essential care (e.g. obstetrics, emergency shifts), we are asking that resources be redirected from routine care to support the immunization effort. We understand that this redeployment will look different across different practice settings.

**If your practice is planning to set up a vaccination clinic, please contact Dr. Matthew Tenenbaum (information below).** WDG Public Health will designate it as a PHU-coordinated clinic and provide you with WDG Public Health’s group number, which will enable you to bill the relevant H409/H410 billing codes.

**If you are interested in working at a WDG Public Health vaccination hub site, please contact Dr. Matthew Tenenbaum (information below).** WDG Public Health will be expanding our available clinics to create capacity for primary care immunizers. We expect to have an update on this later in the week. You would be asked to commit to 4- or 8-hour blocks, and you would be able to bill the relevant H409/H410 billing codes.

**If you are delivering ad-hoc/opportunistic immunizations within your practice setting, please continue to use the G593 billing code.** This billing code can be used for all vaccine doses (including booster doses).

Thank you for all your hard work and your partnership throughout the pandemic.

**For more information, please contact:**

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