

ADVISORY

SUBJECT:	Spring 2024 COVID-19 Booster Campaign
Date:	April 16, 2024
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То:	Health Care Providers, Pharmacies, Hospitals
From:	Dr. Matthew Tenenbaum, Associate Medical Officer of Health

- A COVID-19 Booster Campaign for high-risk individuals will run from April to June.
- Eligible high-risk groups include seniors, residents of congregate living settings, immunocompromised individuals, and First Nations, Inuit, and Métis persons aged 55 and older.
- Eligible individuals may receive their booster six months after their last COVID-19 dose or infection, using approved XBB mRNA vaccines.

As part of ongoing efforts to manage COVID-19 and its impacts, particularly among populations at increased risk of severe illness, the Ministry of Health has launched its Spring 2024 COVID-19 Booster Campaign. This advisory outlines the updated eligibility for receiving a COVID-19 booster dose and guidance on administration practices.

Eligibility for a Spring 2024 Booster Dose

1. High Priority Groups

Individuals eligible for a booster dose this spring include:

- Seniors (65 years and older)
- Residents of Long-term Care Homes and Congregate Living Settings
- **Immunocompromised Individuals (6 months and older)**: Those who are moderately to severely immunocompromised due to an underlying condition or treatment.
- First Nations, Inuit, and Métis Individuals (55 years and older), and their non-Indigenous household members who are also 55 years and older.

These groups are prioritized to receive a booster to maintain robust immunity against COVID-19, given their elevated risk of severe outcomes.

2. Other Individuals

Those not belonging to the High Priority Groups may receive a booster based on a recommendation from a healthcare provider or if they are starting/completing their primary series of vaccinations.

Note: All other individuals are *not* recommended to receive a COVID-19 vaccine dose this spring and should await further recommendations expected before the fall 2024 season. This includes individuals who did not receive an XBB COVID-19 vaccine this fall/winter.

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Vaccination Timing and Type

Eligible individuals should receive their booster if it has been at least **six months** since their previous dose or a confirmed COVID-19 infection, though it may be given as early as three months. Vaccinations should be carried out using the **XBB mRNA COVID-19 vaccines** authorized for the appropriate age groups.

For additional guidance, please refer to the <u>Ministry of Health's COVID-19 Vaccine Guidance</u> (April 8, 2024 or as current).

Ordering Vaccines

To order vaccines, please fax a completed <u>order form</u> and <u>temperature logs</u> to **519-823-4903**. Orders are processed weekly with delivery following soon after. Direct pick-ups are also arranged throughout the week at designated public health offices. Links to the order forms and additional details can be accessed <u>here</u>.

For more information, please contact:

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