

---

**SUBJECT:** COVID-19 Booster Doses – Updated Eligibility for Adolescents  
**Date:** February 15, 2022  
**Pages:** 1  
**To:** Health Care Providers, Pharmacies, Hospitals, Assessment Centres  
**From:** Dr. Matthew Tenenbaum, Associate Medical Officer of Health

---

On February 14, 2022, the Government of Ontario further [expanded eligibility](#) for COVID-19 booster doses.<sup>1</sup> Beginning February 18, all adolescents 12 to 17 years of age will be eligible to receive a booster dose without needing to meet any further eligibility criteria (e.g. based on underlying medical conditions).

Additionally, adolescents 12 to 17 years of age will be recommended to receive their booster dose six months (168 days) following their primary series. While this is not currently reflected in the provincial [COVID-19 Third Dose Recommendations](#)<sup>2</sup>, updates are expected to follow shortly.

While the eligibility for booster doses has now broadened substantially, booster doses are still most important for those individuals who are at greatest risk of morbidity and mortality from COVID-19, including adolescents with underlying medical conditions, residents of congregate settings, and individuals who belong to racialized and/or marginalized communities.<sup>3</sup> Please consider if there are ways to promote the importance of booster doses to these patients.

## References:

1. Ontario Newsroom. Ontario Moving to Next Phase of Reopening on February 17. February 14, 2022. Available at: <https://news.ontario.ca/en/release/1001600/ontario-moving-to-next-phase-of-reopening-on-february-17>
2. Ministry of Health. COVID-19 vaccine third dose recommendations - Version 7.1. February 7, 2022. Available at: [https://www.health.gov.on.ca/en/pro/programs/publichealth/coronavirus/docs/vaccine/COVID-19\\_vaccine\\_third\\_dose\\_recommendations.pdf](https://www.health.gov.on.ca/en/pro/programs/publichealth/coronavirus/docs/vaccine/COVID-19_vaccine_third_dose_recommendations.pdf)
3. Government of Canada. NACI rapid response: Guidance on the use of booster COVID-19 vaccine doses in adolescents 12 to 17 years of age. January 28, 2022. Available at: <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/immunization/national-advisory-committee-on-immunization-naci/rapid-response-guidance-use-booster-covid-19-vaccine-doses-adolescents-12-17-years-age.html>

## For more information, please contact:

**Name/Title:** Dr. Matthew Tenenbaum, Associate Medical Officer of Health  
**Email:** [matthew.tenenbaum@wdgpublichealth.ca](mailto:matthew.tenenbaum@wdgpublichealth.ca)  
**Website:** [www.wdgpublichealth.ca](http://www.wdgpublichealth.ca)