

SUBJECT: COVID-19 Vaccine Booster Doses
Date: November 1, 2021
Pages: 2
To: Primary Care Physicians, Hospitals, LTC/RHs, Pharmacies
From: Dr. Nicola Mercer, Medical Officer of Health & CEO

Background:

On October 29, 2021, the National Advisory Committee on Immunization (NACI) released interim guidance on booster doses for the COVID-19 vaccine.¹

The Province of Ontario will announce this week how Ontario will implement these recommendations.

NACI **strongly recommends** that populations at highest risk of waning protection following their primary series and at highest risk of severe COVID-19 illness, be offered a booster dose of an mRNA COVID-19 vaccine six months after completing their primary series. This includes:

- Adults living in long-term care or other congregate settings that provide care for seniors and
- All adults 80 years of age and older.¹

NACI **recommends** that other populations at increased risk of severe illness, or who are essential for maintaining health system capacity, receive a booster dose of an mRNA vaccine six months after completing their primary series. These populations include:

- Adults 70 to 79 years of age;
- People who received two doses of the AstraZeneca Vaxzevria/COVISHIELD vaccine or one dose of the Janssen vaccine;
- Adults in or from First Nations, Inuit, and Métis communities; and
- Frontline health workers who have direct in-person contact with patients and **who were vaccinated with a very short interval between doses.**¹

WDGPH Response for Seniors Age 70+

Pending a formal announcement from the Government of Ontario to adopt the NACI recommendations, Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph Public Health (WDGPH) has begun contacting and booking third dose vaccine appointments for:

- Eligible residents who are 70 years of age and older and who completed their second dose 6 months ago.

At this time, eligible residents who are 70 years of age and older may wait to receive a phone call or email message from WDGPH to book their appointment for a booster dose OR they can visit a local pharmacy once the province makes their announcement.

All individuals newly eligible for a third dose booster based on NACI recommendations and Provincial Guidance will not need a health care provider referral to receive the vaccine.

Other Eligible Groups

Once WDGPH receives Provincial Guidance, further instructions will be released on how other eligible individuals may receive their booster dose.

All facilities which have registered staff (e.g., hospital, long-term care facility, Family Health Team) will be provided with COVID-19 vaccine (both Pfizer and Moderna) to vaccinate their own eligible healthcare workers.

References:

1. Government of Canada. National Advisory Committee on Immunization: Summary of NACI Statement of October 29, 2021 Interim Guidance on Booster COVID-19 Vaccine Doses in Canada. Available at: <https://www.canada.ca/content/dam/phac-aspc/documents/services/immunization/national-advisory-committee-on-immunization-naci/recommendations-use-covid-19-vaccines/statement-guidance-booster-doses/summary/summary.pdf>.

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