

SUBJECT: Updated Booster Dose Recommendations
Date: November 4, 2021
Pages: 3
To: Primary Care Providers, Hospitals, LTC/RHs, Pharmacies
From: Dr. Matthew Tenenbaum, Associate Medical Officer of Health

Booster Doses for Specific Populations

The Ontario Ministry of Health updated the [COVID-19 Vaccine Third Dose Recommendations](#).¹ Starting on November 6, 2021, the following populations are eligible for a COVID-19 vaccine booster dose **6 months** following the completion of their primary series:

- Adults 70 years of age or older (born 1951 or earlier)
- First Nations, Inuit and Metis individuals and their non-Indigenous household members
- Individuals who completed their primary series with only viral vector vaccines (AstraZeneca/COVISHIELD or Janssen)
- Health care workers and designated essential caregivers in congregate settings (including long-term care home staff and designated caregivers):
 - Any regulated health professionals and any staff member, contract worker, student/trainee, registered volunteer, or other designated essential caregiver currently working in-person in a health care organization, including workers that are not providing direct patient care and are frequently in the patient environment (i.e., cleaning staff, research staff, other administrative staff).
 - Workers providing healthcare service or direct patient service in a congregate, residential or community setting outside of a health care organization
 - See Appendix B in the [Ministry of Health Guidance](#) document for specific examples.

Older adults living in congregate settings (e.g., long term care and retirement homes) and individuals who are immunocompromised as defined by the Ministry of Health remain eligible for third doses.

Third Dose in Primary Series vs. Booster Doses

The purpose of a vaccine booster dose is to restore immunity that may have decreased over time in individuals who initially responded adequately to a complete primary vaccine series. A booster dose is different from a third dose which can be added to the standard primary vaccine series in order to establish an adequate level of protection for individuals who developed no or sub-optimal immune response to the standard two-dose primary series.

Clinical Considerations

- Either Moderna or Pfizer-BioNTech vaccines may be used as a third or booster dose (regardless of which COVID-19 vaccine was used in the primary series).
- If offering Pfizer for third or booster dose, the full dose (30 mcg) is recommended.
- If offering Moderna for third or booster dose:
 - Full dose (100 mcg) is recommended for residents in congregate living settings, adults 70 years of age and older, and all eligible immunocompromised individuals.
 - Half dose (50 mcg) is recommended for all other individuals less than 70 years of age.
- Individuals that received AstraZeneca/COVISHIELD vaccine for their first and second dose are recommended to receive an mRNA vaccine for their third or booster dose unless contraindicated. A booster dose of a viral vector vaccine should only be considered when an mRNA vaccine is contraindicated or inaccessible. People who experienced a severe immediate allergic reaction after a first dose of an mRNA vaccine may safely receive future doses of an mRNA vaccine after consulting with an allergist/immunologist.

How to Receive Booster Dose

Eligible residents of Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph (WDG) can use one of the following methods to receive their vaccine:

- Primary care providers may offer vaccine to their eligible patients.
- Use the WDG Public Health online booking system:
wdgpublichealth.ca/appointments.
- By phone through Call Centre: 1-800-265-7293, ext. 7006 (Mon-Fri, 9 am to 4 pm)
 - Note: Call Centre will be open on Saturday Nov. 6, 2021 from 9 am to 3 pm.
- Contact a participating pharmacy: covid-19.ontario.ca/vaccine-locations.
- WDG Public Health is currently contacting and booking appointments for residents 70 years of age and older as they become eligible.
- Health Care Workers may be able to receive the vaccine through their workplace facility (e.g., hospital, LTC/RH, Family Health Team).

References:

1. Ontario Ministry of Health. COVID-19 Vaccine Third Dose Recommendations, November 3, 2021. Available at:
https://www.health.gov.on.ca/en/pro/programs/publichealth/coronavirus/docs/vaccine/COVID-19_vaccine_third_dose_recommendations.pdf

For more information, please contact:

Name/Title: Marlene Jantzi, Program Manager, Infectious Disease
Email: Marlene.Jantzi@wdgpublichealth.ca
Website: www.wdgpublichealth.ca