

---

**SUBJECT:** Updated Guidance for COVID-19 Vaccine Booster Doses and Additional Doses in a Series

Date: December 7, 2021

Pages: 2

To: Primary Care Providers, Pharmacies, Hospitals

From: Dr. Matthew Tenenbaum, Associate Medical Officer of Health

---

- **Effective December 13, adults 50+ will be eligible to receive a booster dose 168 days following their second dose.**
- **Individuals receiving hemodialysis or peritoneal dialysis are now recommended to receive a three-dose primary series.**
- **Individuals with loss of immunity due to therapy or transplant are recommended to be re-immunized with a complete (three-dose) primary series.**

## Booster Doses

Last week, the Government of Ontario [announced expanded eligibility for COVID-19 booster doses](#). Starting on December 13, 2021, adults 50 years of age and older (born 1971 or earlier) will be eligible for a booster dose six months (168 days) following their second dose. Other populations already eligible for a booster dose include:

- 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 as defined by [Ministry of Health Guidance](#).

The Government of Ontario has also announced that it plans to expand eligibility for booster doses in 2022. This would be based on age and risk, with an interval of six to eight months following an individual's second dose.

Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph Public Health (WDGPH) is working closely with primary care providers, pharmacies, and its own clinical teams to develop sustainable capacity for providing booster doses across Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph. **WDGPH is asking all providers to take advantage of existing opportunities to provide booster doses to eligible clients.** Many adults over 50 will already be visiting their primary care provider or pharmacy for other reasons over the coming weeks, and a large proportion will pass 168 days from their second dose in December and January.

## Three-Dose Series for Individuals on Dialysis

The COVID-19 Vaccine Third Dose Recommendations have been updated to include individuals who are receiving dialysis (hemodialysis or peritoneal dialysis). These individuals should receive a third dose of an mRNA vaccine as part of their primary series at least two months (8 weeks) after their second dose with a minimum interval of 28 days.

### **Re-Immunization following Loss of Immunity due to Therapy or Transplant**

Effective immediately, the Ministry of Health is recommending re-vaccination with a new COVID-19 primary series post-transplantation for individuals who receive hematopoietic stem cell transplants, hematopoietic cell transplants (autologous or allogeneic), and recipients of CAR-T-cell therapy due to the loss of immunity following therapy or transplant.

Individuals in these groups are recommended to be re-immunized with a new three-dose primary series according to the currently recommended dose intervals.

### **Referral process**

Primary care providers and specialists who are familiar with their patients' medical histories are best positioned to identify and immunize eligible clients. If you are unable to administer vaccine to your eligible patients, you may refer them to be vaccinated at a WDGPH clinic.

To have your patients vaccinated:

1. Complete and sign the UPDATED referral form (attached to this advisory).
2. Fax the referral form to 1-855-934-5463. WDGPH will contact your patient directly to book them into a clinic.
3. Provide a copy of this form to your patient. Patients must bring this completed and signed form to their vaccine appointment.

### **For more information, please contact:**

Name/Title: 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)