
SUBJECT: Extended Eligibility for Publicly Funded Shingles Vaccine
Date: August 15, 2024
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To: Physicians, Long-term Care Homes
From: Dr. Matthew Tenenbaum, Associate Medical Officer of Health

As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, individuals born from 1949 to 1953 who missed the opportunity to receive publicly funded shingles vaccine are eligible to receive Shingrix® and complete their 2-dose series by December 31, 2024.

Individuals between the ages of 65 and 70 are eligible to receive two doses of the publicly funded shingles vaccine, Shingrix, 2-6 months apart as per [Ontario's Publicly Funded Vaccine Schedule](#)¹. The Shingrix vaccine is safe and effective at reducing the incidence of shingles (herpes zoster) and post-herpetic neuralgia².

Extended Eligibility

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, many individuals missed their opportunity to receive recommended vaccines under the publicly funded program³. The Ministry of Health has extended the eligibility of some vaccines, including Shingrix, to increase uptake and ensure adequate protection among specific populations. Please see Table 1 for extended eligibility for Shingrix. This applies to eligible individual who have not received publicly funded shingles vaccine in the past.

Table 1: Extended Eligibility for Shingrix Vaccine

Vaccine	Current Eligibility	Impacted Cohort	Remains Eligible for Missed Doses until
Shingrix	65-70 years old	Seniors born in 1949, 1950, 1951, 1952 and 1953	December 31, 2024

Vaccine Ordering

To order vaccine for your office please use the [WDG Public Health Vaccine Portal](#) OR fax a completed [vaccine order form](#) to **519-823-4903**.

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References:

1. GlaxoSmithKline Inc. Product Monograph: Shingrix, Herpes Zoster vaccine, accessed August 12, 2024. Available at: https://pdf.hres.ca/dpd_pm/00063712.PDF
2. Government of Canada. Herpes zoster (shingles) vaccine: Canadian Immunization Guide, accessed August 12, 2024. Available at: [https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/publications/healthy-living/canadian-immunization-guide-part-4-active-vaccines/page-8-herpes-zoster-\(shingles\)-vaccine.html](https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/publications/healthy-living/canadian-immunization-guide-part-4-active-vaccines/page-8-herpes-zoster-(shingles)-vaccine.html)
3. Ministry of Health. Guidance for Routine & Catch-Up Immunization Services, accessed August 12, 2024. Available at: https://www.ontario.ca/files/2024-01/moh-extended-age-grade-based-eligibility-en-2024-01-05.pdf?_ga=2.12104305.451410298.1704996976-456460016.1704488978

For more information, please contact:

Name/Title: Karen Mulvey, Manager, Vaccine Preventable Diseases
Email: Karen.Mulvey@wdgpublichealth.ca
Website: www.wdgpublichealth.ca