

COVID-19 Vaccine Bulletin #37

Booster Dose Updates

Quick Updates

- Review Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph Public Health’s (WDGPH) vaccination progress: [COVID-19 Vaccination Report](#)
 - The vaccination dashboard now includes elementary schools with an eligible population of above 50 students. Click on the “School Vaccinations” tab at the top of the report.
- ***NEW***: [Certain populations are now eligible for booster doses.](#)
 - Due to the positive uptake of booster doses in our community, **there is limited capacity for appointments using WDGPH’s online booking system. Health Care Workers** should access booster doses through their workplace, at a [participating pharmacy](#) or their primary care provider. Eligible health care workers will be able to book into WDG Public Health clinics in December.
 - Refer to our website the most up-to-date information on how to access booster doses: wdgpublichealth.ca/booster-doses.
- The University of Waterloo School of Pharmacy has developed an easy-to-understand guide to [COVID-19 Vaccine Medical Exemptions](#) and an [FAQ on COVID-19 mRNA Vaccines for Children](#).
- **REMINDER**: COVax accounts are deactivated if users have not signed in within 30 days. Sign in periodically to keep your account active. If your account deactivates please contact Madison.fach@wdgpublichealth.ca at least 1-2 days before you require access.
- **REMINDER**: Shoulder injuries related to vaccine administration (SIRVA) is a preventable occurrence caused by injection of a vaccine into the shoulder capsule rather than the deltoid muscle. Immunizers can prevent SIRVA by adoption proper landmarking and injection techniques. Please review [WDGPH’s memo](#) for more information.

Vaccine Status for Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph

89% of residents 12+ received at least one dose	86% of residents 12+ received two doses
% received at least one dose in: Well. County = 81 Duff. County = 87 City of Guelph = 94	Total number of doses given in primary care office or pharmacy = 120,140

Age Group	First Dose	Second Dose
60+	96%	95%
50-59	90%	88%
40-49	88%	86%
30-39	89%	85%
20-29	81%	77%
12-19	83%	80%

COVID-19 Vaccine Eligibility

COVID-19 Vaccine Dose	Recommended Interval	Eligibility	How to get the vaccine
First or second dose	8-week interval is optimal as recommended by NACI (see below) Minimum interval: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 21 days-Pfizer • 28 days-Moderna 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Anyone born 2009 or earlier 	Drop-in at any WDGPH clinic OR Primary care or a participating pharmacy
Second or third dose for those who received non-Health Canada approved vaccine	At least 4 weeks from previous dose	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Anyone who received one or two doses of non-Health Canada approved vaccine • Complete this form before vaccination 	Drop-in at any WDGPH clinic OR Primary care or a participating pharmacy
Third dose for immuno-compromised	8 weeks following last dose	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Moderately or severely immunocompromised • For specific criteria, review COVID-19 Vaccine Third Dose Recommendations. 	Book an appointment over the phone: 1-800-265-7293, x7006 (Mon-Fri, 8am-4pm) OR Primary care or a participating pharmacy . Bring medication prescription/bottle or physician referral to vaccine appointment
Booster dose	At least 6 months following last dose	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Individuals 70 years of age (born in 1951) and older • Individuals who had two doses of AstraZeneca or one dose of Janssen vaccine • Individuals from First Nations, Inuit and Métis communities and their household members. 	WDGPH is currently contacting eligible individuals OR Primary care or a participating pharmacy .
Booster dose for HCWs	At least 6 months following last dose	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health care workers & designated essential caregivers 	Receive vaccine through workplace/facility OR Primary care or a participating pharmacy .

Frequently Asked Questions about Booster Doses

What is the difference between third dose and boosters?

The purpose of a vaccine booster dose is to restore immunity protection 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 2-dose primary series.

Can individuals mix their vaccine type for their booster?

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).

Should individuals receiving a third or booster dose receive the full dose?

If offering **Pfizer** for third or booster dose, the full dose (30 mcg) is recommended. If offering **Moderna** for third or booster dose, the full dose (100 mcg) is recommended for residents of congregate settings (e.g., long-term care or retirement homes), adults 70 years of age and older, and all eligible immunocompromised individuals. Half dose of Moderna (50 mcg) is recommended for all other individuals less than 70 years of age.

Are the side effects from the booster similar to second dose?

Based on [NACI's review of the data](#), mRNA booster doses are generally well-tolerated and provide strong booster effect. The safety and effectiveness of a third dose in a person who had a previous COVID-19 infection is currently unknown. The rate of myocarditis and pericarditis following a booster dose is currently unknown.

Will boosters be required to be considered fully vaccinated?

No, currently booster doses are not mandatory and are not required to be considered [fully vaccinated](#).

Does the preferential recommendation for Pfizer for individuals aged 18-24 apply to the booster/third dose?

Yes. The individual may still choose Moderna with informed consent.

Can individuals who have a mixed series of viral vector and mRNA vaccines receive a booster dose?

No. At this time a booster dose of an mRNA vaccine will be offered to individuals who received two doses of AstraZeneca/COVISHIELD COVID-19 vaccine or one dose of Janssen/Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 vaccine.

Updated NACI Recommendations

Severe allergic reactions

National Advisory Committee on Immunizations (NACI) has reviewed evidence from recent studies showing that most people who experienced immediate allergic reactions (e.g., anaphylaxis) after a first dose of an mRNA COVID-19 vaccine experienced no, or mild reactions after a second dose.

NACI recommends that people who experiences a severe immediate allergic reaction after a first dose of an mRNA COVID-19 vaccine can safely receive future doses of the same or another mRNA COVID-19 vaccine after consulting with an allergist or another appropriate physician. This group should be observed for 30 minutes, instead of 15 minutes after receiving the vaccine.

Interval between first and second dose

NACI has reviewed emerging evidence on the ongoing positive impact of longer intervals between the first and second doses of a two-dose COVID-19 vaccine series. Data shows that extending intervals by several weeks leads to higher immune responses and better protection against COVID-19 infection that is also expected to last longer.

The interval between the first and second doses of a two-dose COVID-19 vaccine series that appears to be optimal are:

- 8 weeks for the mRNA vaccines
- At least 8 weeks for the AstraZeneca Vaxzevria vaccines

Reference

[Summary of NACI Statement: Recommendations on the Use of COVID-19 Vaccines](#). Update for October 22, 2021.

Vaccine & Pregnancy Resources

- [Physician Advisory – COVID-19 Vaccination Recommendation for Pregnant and Breastfeeding Individuals](#)
- [COVID-19 Vaccine: Preconception, Pregnancy and Breastfeeding Fact Sheet](#)
- [Provincial Council for Maternal and Child Health](#)
- [Ontario.ca/covidvaccinepregnancy](#)

Vaccine Consult Services

Sick Kids' COVID-19 Vaccine Consult Service

- Ontario residents can talk to a paediatric Registered Nurse to get your questions answered about the COVID-19 vaccine for children and youth. This province-wide service is available in many languages, using over-the-phone interpretations.
- Visit sickkids.ca/vaccineconsult or call **437-881-3505** to book a phone appointment.

VaxFacts Clinic

- Individuals can book a phone appointment to speak to a Scarborough Health Network doctor at shn.ca/vaxfacts or **416-438-2911 ext. 5738**.

Reliable Sources of Information on Vaccines

[WDGPH Vaccine Administration Training](#)

[Public Health Agency of Canada](#)

[Government of Ontario](#)

[Ministry of Health](#)

[Public Health Ontario](#)

[Centre for Effective Practice \(CEP\)](#)

[World Health Organization](#)

[COVID-19 Studies from the World Health Organization Database](#)

[Centres for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\)](#)