

COVID-19 Vaccine Bulletin #39

Booster Dose Updates

Quick Updates

- Review Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph Public Health's (WDGPH) vaccination progress: [COVID-19 Vaccination Report](#). The vaccination dashboard now includes individuals who are 5 years of age and older
- ***NEW***: Starting December 13, individuals who are 50 years of age and older will be able to schedule their booster dose appointment. Appointments will be scheduled approximately 6 months (168 days) after their second dose. Refer to our website the most up-to-date information on how to access booster doses: wdgpublichealth.ca/booster-doses.
- ***NEW***: [Individuals receiving dialysis \(hemodialysis or peritoneal dialysis\) are eligible](#) to receive a third dose 8 weeks following their second dose.
- ***NEW***: [Re-vaccination with a new COVID-19 vaccine primary series is recommended](#) post transplantation for hematopoietic stem cell transplant, hematopoietic cell transplants (autologous or allogenic), and recipients of CAR-T-cell therapy.
- Health care providers who are unable to administer vaccine to their patients who are eligible for vaccine based on a health condition, may complete, and sign this [form](#) to refer them to a WDGPH clinic.
- Step 3 [Ontario Regulation 364/20](#) amended to address proof of vaccination for children turning 12 years of age in 2022.
- The [session recording](#) and [slide deck](#) from the OCFP/MOH *Getting Kids Back to Being Kids: COVID-19 Vaccination for Children 5-11* information session are now available.

Vaccine Status for Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph

85% of residents 5+ received at least one dose	81% of residents 5+ received two doses
% received at least one dose in: Well. County = 84 Duff. County = 82 City of Guelph = 87	Total number of doses given in primary care office or pharmacy = 271,899

Age Group	First Dose	Second Dose	Booster Dose
60+	99%	75%	21%
50-59	90%	85%	3%
40-49	88%	83%	3%
30-39	90%	84%	2%
20-29	82%	77%	1%
12-19	83%	80%	0%
5-11	22%	0%	0%

Updates to Ministry of Health Guidance

[COVID-19 Vaccine Third Dose Recommendations](#)

[COVID-19 Vaccination Recommendations for Special Populations](#)

[COVID-19 Vaccine Administration](#)

Omicron Variant

The World Health Organization (WHO) has confirmed the [B.1.1.529 'Omicron' variant](#) a variant of concern. Omicron Variant possesses a large number of genetic mutations, the impact of these mutations on transmission, immune escape, and other parameters is currently being investigated.

[The Government of Canada](#) will continue to assess the evolving situation, monitor case data, and adjust federal measures as required. Ontario's Ministry of Health has also released [enhanced case, contact, and outbreak management guidance](#) for the Omicron variant. Public Health Ontario has provided an [up-to-date risk assessment of the Omicron variant](#) on its website.

Updated NACI Recommendations on Booster Doses

The National Advisory Committee on Immunization (NACI) has updated its recommendations on the use of COVID-19 vaccine booster doses.

NACI strongly recommends that a booster dose of an authorized mRNA COVID-19 vaccine be offered at least 6 months following completion of the primary series for adults in the following populations:

- People aged 50 years and older
- Adults living in long-term care homes for seniors or other congregate living settings that provide care for seniors
- Individuals who completed their primary series with only viral vector vaccines (AstraZeneca/COVISHIELD or Janssen COVID-19 vaccine)
- Adults in or from First Nations, Inuit, and Métis communities
- All frontline healthcare workers having direct in-person contact with patients

NACI also advises that a booster dose of an authorized mRNA COVID-19 vaccine may be offered to adults 18 to 49 years of age at least 6 months (168 days) after completion of a primary COVID-19 vaccine series with consideration of jurisdictional and individual risks as outlined in the NACI Statement.

Please note that eligibility for booster doses in Ontario is determined by Ministry of Health guidance, which is informed by NACI. Starting 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. Younger individuals are not currently eligible for booster doses unless they otherwise meet [provincial eligibility criteria](#).

To see the full guidance, including a summary of the evidence and rationale behind these recommendations, please visit [NACI Guidance on booster COVID-19 vaccine doses in Canada – Update December 3, 2021](#).

Updated NACI Recommendations on Myocarditis/Pericarditis

NACI has also updated its recommendations regarding the preferred vaccine product in the context of myocarditis and pericarditis reported following receipt of mRNA COVID-19 vaccines. NACI recommends that:

- For individuals aged 12-29 years receiving their primary series, the Pfizer-BioNTech Comirnaty vaccine (30 mcg) is preferred over the Moderna Spikevax vaccine (100 mcg).
- For individuals aged 18-29 years eligible to receive a booster dose, the Pfizer-BioNTech Comirnaty vaccine (30 mcg) may be preferred over the Moderna Spikevax vaccine (50 mcg).
- For individuals aged 30 years or older, either mRNA vaccine product can be used.

NACI has also reiterated its recommendation that a second dose should be provided at least 8 weeks after the first dose, as a longer interval between doses is associated with higher vaccine effectiveness and potentially lower risk of myocarditis/pericarditis.

Please note that Ontario's Ministry of Health preferentially recommends the Pfizer-BioNTech Comirnaty vaccine for individuals aged 12-24 years, as opposed to 12-29 years.

To see the full guidance, including a summary of the evidence and rationale behind these recommendations, please visit [NACI Rapid response: Updated recommendation on the use of authorized COVID-19 vaccines in individuals aged 12 years and older in the context of myocarditis and pericarditis reported following mRNA COVID-19 vaccination](#).

Updates regarding Immunizations for Children aged 5-11

The **WDGPH COVID-19 Vaccine for Children 5-11 Information Presentation** (Dec 2, 2021) is now [available online](#) for those interested in viewing the recording:

[Series of user-friendly information pieces](#) are available from **University of Waterloo School of Pharmacy's Focused Covid Communication team**, including [FAQs on the mRNA vaccine for children \(pdf\)](#), [Decision tool on whether to vaccinate a child now or wait \(pdf\)](#) and [Myocarditis and pericarditis after COVID-19 vaccine](#)

Upcoming 5-11 WDGPH vaccine clinic appointments available at: Fergus Sportsplex, Orangeville Alder Site, Centre Dufferin High School, Stone Road Mall Guelph. More information about how to book an appointment is available [here](#).

The **Canadian Paediatric Society** has issued a [position statement regarding immunization for children 5-11 years of age.](#)

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 \(CDC\)](#)