

COVID-19 Vaccine Bulletin #44

Quick Updates

- Review Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph Public Health's (WDGPH) vaccination progress: [COVID-19 Vaccination Report](#). The vaccination dashboard has recently been updated to include the 12-17 age group in calculations involving third doses (boosters).
- The Novavax Nuvaxovid COVID-19 vaccine is now being offered to adults who are not able or not willing to receive an mRNA vaccine. Individuals interested in receiving Nuvaxovid can book an appointment with [Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph Public Health](#) by calling 1-800-265-7293 ext. 7006. [NACI](#) preferentially recommends the mRNA vaccines for all eligible individuals without contraindications.
- Effective April 4th, 2022, [Public Health Ontario](#) (PHO) and the University of Toronto's Dalla Lana School of Public Health (DLSPH) announced that the hosting [Science Advisory Table](#) will transition from DLSPH to PHO.
- **NEW** On March 23rd, Moderna [announced that its vaccine clinical trial for children under 6 years of age met its primary endpoint](#). They reported that two 25-mcg doses generated antibody titres that were similar to adult vaccine recipients, with a favorable safety profile. Moderna is expected to submit this data to regulatory agencies in the coming weeks.
- **NEW** On April 11th, the province announced that it will be [expanding access to COVID-19 antivirals \(Paxlovid\) treatment](#) and PCR testing to more higher-risk individuals. Beginning April 12th, physicians may provide eligible individuals with a prescription for Paxlovid that can be dispensed at [participating pharmacies](#) across the province. To determine eligibility, visit [Ontario's antiviral screener tool](#).
- **NEW** On April 12th, the National Advisory Committee on Immunization (NACI) [updated its guidance](#) regarding the use of first booster doses for COVID-19 vaccines. NACI now offers a strong recommendation that all adults (18+) and any adolescents (12-17) at increased risk *should* receive a booster dose. Additionally, NACI offers a discretionary recommendation that all other adolescents (12-17) *may* be offered a booster dose.
- **NEW** On April 14th, Pfizer and BioNTech [announced data from a clinical trial](#) evaluating the use of a third (booster) dose of the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine (10 mcg) in children aged 5-11. They reported a 6-fold increase in antibodies against wild-type SARS-CoV-2, and a 36-fold increase in antibodies against the Omicron variant. Pfizer is expected to submit this data to regulatory agencies in the coming weeks.
- **NEW** On April 14th, [Health Canada authorized the monoclonal antibody treatment Evusheld \(tixagevimab/cilgavimab\)](#) for immune-compromised individuals requiring pre-exposure prophylaxis. [Additional documentation](#) is available from Health Canada.

Ministry of Health Guidance

[COVID-19 Staying Up to Date with COVID-19 Vaccines: Recommended doses](#) (updated March 31, 2022)

[COVID-19 Vaccine Screening Form](#) (updated March 25, 2022)

[COVID-19 Vaccine Storage and Handling Guidance](#) (updated March 31, 2022)

[COVID-19 Vaccine Administration](#) (updated March 24, 2022)

[COVID-19 Vaccine Administration Errors and Deviations Guidance](#) (updated March 31, 2022)

[COVID-19 Vaccine Third Dose Recommendations](#) (updated April 6, 2022)

[COVID-19 Vaccine Information Sheet \(age12+\)](#) (updated March 31, 2022)

[COVID-19 Guidance for Individuals Vaccinated outside of Ontario/Canada](#) (updated March 29, 2022)

Ministry of Health Fourth Dose Booster Recommendation for Adults 60 Years of Age and Older.

On April 5, 2022, the [National Advisory Committee on Immunization \(NACI\)](#) released guidance on the use of second booster doses of COVID-19 vaccine for adults 60 years of age and older as well as First Nation, Inuit and Métis individuals, and their non-Indigenous household members 18 years of age and older.

Evidence on second booster vaccine effectiveness is limited. Preliminary data indicates that a second booster dose provides additional protection compared to a first booster, including against severe disease. In an Israeli study of adults ≥ 60 years ([Bar-On et al.](#)), a fourth dose of the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine administered at least 4 months after the third dose decreased the risk of confirmed COVID-19 infection and the risk of severe illness. Protection against infection appeared to wane over the study period, while protection against severe illness did not.

Ontario [announced expanded fourth-dose eligibility](#) on April 6, 2022. [Ontario's guidance](#) recommends that a fourth booster dose should be offered to eligible individuals who received their third (booster) dose five months (140 days) prior. However, eligible individuals may receive a fourth (booster) dose at a minimum interval of 3 months (84 days) after their third (booster) dose.

Reminder: Adolescent Third Booster Dose Recommendation

On February 14, 2022, all adolescents (12-17 years of age) in Ontario became eligible for a third (booster) dose of COVID-19 vaccine. Provincial guidance recommends that adolescents receive their third dose 6 months (168 days) after completing a primary two-dose COVID-19 vaccine series.

With informed consent, adolescents may receive their third dose at a minimum of 3 months (84 days) after completing their primary COVID-19 vaccine series.

The Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine is currently preferred for this age group (for the primary series and booster doses) due to a lower risk of myocarditis/pericarditis. However, adolescents may be immunized with Moderna with informed consent.

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 \(CDC\)](#)

[National Advisory Committee on Immunizations \(NACI\)](#)

More information about how to book an appointment is available:

<https://wdgpublichealth.ca/your-health/covid-19-information-public/covid-19-vaccine-information/covid-19-vaccine-children-ages>