Updated: Executive Officer Notice: Administration of Publicly Funded COVID-19 Vaccines in Ontario Pharmacies – Eligibility

Effective September 26th, 2022

Certain eligible pharmacies can administer publicly funded injectable COVID-19 vaccines to eligible individuals (see Pharmacy Eligibility below).

The purpose of this Executive Officer (EO) Notice (Administration of the Publicly Funded COVID-19 Vaccines in Ontario Pharmacies – **Eligibility**), the EO Notice: Administration of the Publicly Funded COVID-19 Vaccines in Ontario Pharmacies – **Billing**, and the accompanying Questions and Answers (Qs & As) documents, are to set out the terms and conditions for a participating pharmacy's submission of claims for payment (claims) for administering injectable COVID-19 vaccines to eligible individuals. Each document is a ministry policy that pharmacy operators must comply with under section 3.2 of the Health Network System (HNS) Subscription Agreement for Pharmacy Operators. Participating pharmacies must comply with all of the terms and conditions set out in the EO Notices and Qs & As. It is a condition of participating that participating pharmacies offer first, second and third or booster doses to all eligible groups, provided that there is sufficient supply of the vaccines.

The two (2) EO Notices and the accompanying Qs & As documents are **not** intended to describe a pharmacy operator's obligations in respect of administering injectable COVID-19 vaccines under applicable legislation, other agreements with the Province of Ontario, or policies of the Ontario College of Pharmacists (OCP). Pharmacy operators with questions about their legal obligations outside of the HNS Subscription Agreement should refer to the applicable legislation, other agreement, or OCP policy as appropriate.

This EO Notice (Administration of the Publicly Funded COVID-19 Vaccines in Ontario Pharmacies – **Eligibility**) replaces the previous EO notice on the same topic respecting the administration of publicly funded COVID-19 vaccines in Ontario pharmacies that was effective September 12th, 2022.

Pharmacy eligibility

In order to be eligible to submit claims for administering a publicly funded COVID-19 vaccine, a pharmacy operator (also referred to in this document as a "participating pharmacy") must be selected to participate by the ministry and meet the following requirements:

- Have a valid HNS Subscription Agreement with the ministry
- Have a valid agreement[1] with the ministry respecting COVID-19 vaccine administration and the use of the Provincial COVID-19 vaccine solution (the "COVID-19 Vaccine Agreement"); and
- Enrolled in the current Universal Influenza Immunization Program (UIIP)[2].*

This eligibility criteria may be updated from time to time. Please refer to the ministry website for the most recent version of this notice.

*Due to the rapid spread of the Omicron variant and to increase access to vaccination services to as many eligible individuals as possible, as of January 13, 2022, the ministry opened enrollment in the COVID-19 vaccination program to pharmacies that are not enrolled in the current UIIP on an exceptional and temporary basis. Pharmacies that are interested in administering publicly funded COVID-19 vaccines but not currently enrolled in the current UIIP should email the ministry at: OPDPInfoBox@ontario.ca with their store name, address and ON Provider #. In addition to having a valid HNS Subscription Agreement and a valid COVID-19 Vaccine Agreement, such pharmacies will be required to pass an inspection by their local public health unit (PHU), including a cold chain inspection, and comply with all storage and handling guidelines for vaccines. Please note that conducting inspections will be at the sole discretion of the local PHUs and their resources and timelines.

Patient eligibility

The following rules apply to the interpretation of the eligibility criteria in **Tables 1, 2, 3 and 4** below for any vaccine dose.

[1] A valid agreement is in respect of a particular pharmacy operator operating at a specific pharmacy location. Where a pharmacy is sold, or where a pharmacy operator relocates, a new COVID-19 Vaccine Agreement is required to reflect the new pharmacy operator or location.

[2] Enrollment in the UIIP is in respect of a particular pharmacy operator operating at a specific pharmacy location. Where a pharmacy is sold, or where a pharmacy operator relocates, new enrollment in the UIIP is required to reflect the new pharmacy operator or location.

An individual is eligible to receive a publicly funded COVID-19 vaccine if they live, work, or study in Ontario or they are visiting Ontario from another province / territory or another country, and if they meet the applicable eligibility criteria in the tables below. **For all vaccine doses, when eligibility is defined by age, individuals must be the respective age of eligibility on the day of the vaccine administration.**

Individuals who received a COVID-19 vaccine outside of Ontario or Canada who contact their local Public Health Unit will have their COVID-19 vaccine history verified and uploaded into the COVAXON system. Depending on how many doses and which vaccines were previously administered (please refer to the COVID-19 Vaccine Guidance located on the ministry's website), pharmacies may administer an additional dose of an monovalent mRNA vaccine or a bivalent mRNA vaccine if applicable, if required to complete the vaccine series or as a booster.

Informed consent is required to administer any COVID-19 vaccine to an eligible individual.

For a primary series

1. NACI continues to preferentially recommend that a complete primary series of a monovalent mRNA COVID-19 vaccine (Pfizer-BioNTech, Moderna) should be offered to individuals in the authorized age group without contraindications to the vaccine.
2. Novavax or Medicago may be offered to individuals in the authorized age group without contraindications to the vaccine who are not able or willing to receive an mRNA COVID-19 vaccine.
3. A complete primary series of a viral vector Janssen COVID-19 vaccine may be offered to individuals in the authorized age group without contraindications to the vaccine only when all other authorized COVID-19 vaccines are contraindicated.

The Province has a limited supply of Nuvaxovid™, Covifenz® and viral vector vaccines. Specifically regarding Covifenz®, the supply is uncertain. Pharmacies should work with their public health unit to determine how eligible individuals (as defined below) can receive these vaccines[3].

Based on advice from the Ontario Immunization Advisory Committee (OIAC), and in alignment with NACI, the Ministry of Health has issued a **preferential recommendation for the use of Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine for individuals 5-29 years of age if receiving a primary series dose, or 5 – 17 years of age if receiving a booster dose.** This recommendation stems from an observed increase in the number of reports in Ontario of myocarditis/pericarditis following vaccination with Moderna relative to Pfizer-BioNTech in children, adolescents and young adults, particularly among males. Although risk of

[3] For more information on COVID-19 vaccines refer to ministry guidance: COVID-19 Vaccine Guidance

myocarditis/pericarditis with the Moderna (50 mcg) vaccine in children 6 to 11 years of age is unknown, with a primary series in adolescents and young adults the rare risk of myocarditis/pericarditis with Moderna (100 mcg) was higher than with Pfizer-BioNTech (30 mcg). There is no preferred product for individuals 6 months to 4 years of age. See COVID-19 Vaccine Guidance for more details on administering to special populations.

The use of Pfizer-BioNTech Comirnaty vaccine (10 mcg) is preferred to the Moderna (25 mcg) for those 5 years of age. However, per NACI, Moderna (25 mcg) may be offered to children who are 5 years of age as an alternative to the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine (10 mcg), with informed consent and discussion of risks and benefits with the child's healthcare provider.

Residents of long-term care homes, residents of retirement homes, and elderly persons living in other congregate settings (e.g. assisted-living facilities, naturally occurring congregate retirement settings/seniors apartment buildings, congregate settings for people with developmental disabilities, mental health and addictions issues, etc.) who meet the eligibility criteria in the tables below are only eligible to receive a pharmacy-administered vaccine dose when pharmacy staff administer the dose at the long-term care home, retirement home or other congregate setting. Staff, support workers, essential caregivers, volunteers and contractors who are working at the long-term care home, retirement home or other congregate settings are also eligible for pharmacy-administered vaccine doses either at the pharmacy or when the pharmacy staff visit the home / congregate setting, provided that they meet the applicable eligibility criteria in the tables below. Pharmacies must coordinate any vaccine administration at a long-term care home, retirement home or congregate setting with the local public health unit and the proprietor of the home/setting.

Individuals attending Pharmacy Mobile Clinics are subject to the eligibility requirements set out below where applicable. For more information refer to Pharmacy Qs+As Question 48.

Table 1 – Eligibility for first* or single dose administration**

Vaccine Product • Infant Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine, 3 mcg / 0.2mL, Maroon Cap, (DIN 02530325)
Eligibility Criteria for First Dose Administration • Children who are 6 months to 4 years of age.
Vaccine Product • COVID-19 vaccine MODERNA 0.10mg/mL (DIN 02527685)

Eligibility Criteria for First Dose Administration • Children who are 6 months to 5 years of age Note: Individuals aged 6 to 11 years of age are also eligible to use this dosage format[4].
Vaccine Product • Pediatric Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine, orange cap (DIN 02522454)
Eligibility Criteria for First Dose Administration • Children who are 5 to 11 years of age
Vaccine Product • Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 (12+ formulation) vaccine, purple cap (DIN: 02509210); • Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 (12+ formulation) vaccine, grey cap (DIN: 02527863);
Eligibility Criteria for First Dose Administration • Individuals who are 12 years of age or older
Vaccine Product • COVID-19 vaccine MODERNA 0.20mg/mL (DIN: 02510014)
Eligibility Criteria for First Dose Administration • Individuals who are 6 years of age or older[4]
Vaccine Product • Nuvaxovid™ COVID-19 vaccine (DIN: 02525364)
Eligibility Criteria for First Dose Administration Individuals who are 18 years of age or older and who do not have contraindications to Nuvaxovid and: • have contraindications such as a confirmed allergy to components of the mRNA vaccines, if the individual has been assessed by an appropriate physician / nurse practitioner and the pharmacy has received a completed COVID-19 Vaccination: Allergy Form prior to administrating the Nuvaxovid™ vaccine; or • are otherwise not able or willing to receive to receive an mRNA vaccine Note: at this time the Province has a limited supply of the Nuvaxovid™ vaccine. Pharmacies should work with their public health unit to determine how eligible individuals (as defined above) can receive this vaccine.
Vaccine Product • COVISHIELD COVID-19 vaccine (DIN: 02512947) • COVID-19 vaccine AstraZeneca (PIN: 09857655) • Janssen COVID-19 VACCINE (DIN 02513153)

[4] For dosing information, see the most recent version of the Executive Officer Notice: Administration of Publicly Funded COVID-19 Vaccines in Ontario Pharmacies – Billing, available here.

Eligibility Criteria for First or Single Dose Administration Individuals who are 18 years of age or older and who: • have contraindications to all other COVID-19 vaccines funded by Ontario, such as a confirmed allergy, if the individual has been assessed by an appropriate physician / nurse practitioner and the pharmacy has received a completed COVID-19 Vaccination: Allergy Form prior to administrating the AstraZeneca / COVISHIELD / Janssen vaccine Note: at this time the Province has a limited supply of AstraZeneca / COVIDSHIELD and Janssen vaccines. Pharmacies should work with their public health unit to determine how eligible individuals (as defined above) can receive these vaccines.
Vaccine Product • Covifenz® COVID-19 Vaccine (DIN: 02521326)
Eligibility Criteria for First Dose Administration Individuals who are 18 to 64 years of age or older and who do not have contraindications to Covifenz® and: • have contraindications such as a confirmed allergy to components of the mRNA vaccines, if the individual has been assessed by an appropriate physician / nurse practitioner and the pharmacy has received a completed COVID-19 Vaccination: Allergy Form prior to administrating the Covifenz® vaccine; or • are otherwise not able or willing to receive to receive an mRNA vaccine Note: at this time the Province has a limited and uncertain supply of the Covifenz® vaccine. Pharmacies should work with their public health unit to determine how eligible individuals (as defined above) can receive this vaccine.

Table 2 – Eligibility for second dose administration[5]**

The following rules apply to the interpretation of the eligibility criteria in Table 2 below.

NACI recommends that, if readily available*, the same mRNA COVID-19 vaccine product should be offered for the subsequent dose in a primary vaccine series where the first dose was an mRNA COVID-19 vaccine. For more information on mixing types of vaccines, refer to the Q&A for Health Care Providers on Mixed COVID-19 mRNA Vaccine Schedules available here, and the COVID-19 Vaccine Guidance available here.

*Note: Readily available means easily available at the time of vaccination without delay or vaccine wastage

[5] Table 2 includes 3-dose primary series for Infant Pfizer BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine.

The use of Pfizer-BioNTech Comirnaty vaccine (10 mcg) is preferred to the Moderna (25 mcg) for those 5 years of age. However, per NACI, Moderna (25 mcg) may be offered to children who are 5 years of age as an alternative to the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine (10 mcg), with informed consent and discussion of risks and benefits with the child's healthcare provider.

Infants and children are recommended to be administered the same vaccine product for all doses in a primary series, using the dose that is correct for their age at the time of appointment. This is particularly important for children receiving Moderna 25 mcg and Pfizer 3 mcg, due to the difference in the number of doses in the primary series between the two products

Table 2 – Eligibility for second dose administration[6]**
(please review preamble to Table 2)

Vaccine Product • Infant Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine, Maroon Cap, (DIN 02530325)
Eligibility Criteria for Second Dose Administration Children who are 6 months to 4 years old who received their first dose with the Infant Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine, may receive their second dose with the Infant Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine, vaccine if: • 8 weeks (56 days) have passed since their first dose with the Infant Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine, or • less than 8 weeks have passed since their first dose, provided that the interval between doses is consistent with the product monograph of the vaccine used for the individual's first dose and the individual or their substitute decision maker has provided informed consent to a shorter interval.
Eligibility Criteria for Third Dose Administration The Infant Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine is a 3-dose primary series. Children who are 6 months to 4 years old who received their first and second doses with the Infant Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine, may receive their third dose with the Infant Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine, vaccine if: • 8 weeks (56 days) have passed since their second dose with the Infant Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 **vaccine**
Vaccine Product • COVID-19 vaccine MODERNA 0.10mg/mL (DIN 02527685)
Eligibility Criteria for Second Dose Administration

[6] Note: The Infant Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine is a 3-dose primary series. The 3rd dose interval added to Table 2

Children who are 6 months to 5 years old who received their first dose with the Moderna 0.10mg/mL vaccine may receive their second dose with the Moderna 0.10mg/mL vaccine if:

- 8 weeks have passed since their first dose with the Moderna 0.10mg/mL vaccine; or
- less than 8 weeks have passed since their first dose, provided that the interval between doses is consistent with the product monograph of the vaccine used for the individual's first dose and the individual or their substitute decision maker has provided informed consent to a shorter interval.

Note: Individuals aged 6 to 11 years of age are also eligible to use this dosage format[7].

Vaccine Product

- Pediatric Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine, orange cap (DIN 02522454)

Eligibility Criteria for Second Dose Administration

Children who are 5 to 11 years old who received their first dose with the Pfizer vaccine may receive their second dose with the Pediatric Pfizer vaccine if:

- 8 weeks have passed since their first dose with the Pfizer vaccine; or
- less than 8 weeks have passed since their first dose, provided that the interval between doses is consistent with the product monograph of the vaccine used for the individual's first dose and the individual or their substitute decision maker has provided informed consent to a shorter interval.

Vaccine Product

- Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 (12+ formulation) vaccine, purple cap (DIN: 02509210);
- Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 (12+ formulation) vaccine, grey cap (DIN: 02527863);
- COVID-19 vaccine MODERNA 0.20mg/mL (DIN: 02510014) (age 6 and older)

Eligibility Criteria for Second Dose Administration

Individuals who received their first dose of AstraZeneca/COVISHIELD vaccine may receive one of the mRNA vaccines (Pfizer (12+ formulation) or Moderna) as their second dose if:

- at least 8 weeks have passed since their first dose; or
- less than 8 weeks have passed since their first dose, provided that the interval between doses is consistent with the product monograph of the vaccine used for the individual's first dose and the individual or their substitute decision maker has provided informed consent to a shorter interval.

[7] For dosing information, see the most recent version of the Executive Officer Notice: Administration of Publicly Funded COVID-19 Vaccines in Ontario Pharmacies – Billing, available here.

Individuals who received their first dose of an mRNA vaccine (Pfizer or Moderna) may receive one of the mRNA vaccines (Pfizer (12+ formulation) or Moderna (age 6 and older)) as their second dose if:

- 8 weeks have passed since their first dose; or
- less than 8 weeks have passed since their first dose, provided that the interval between doses is consistent with the product monograph of the vaccine used for the individual's first dose and the individual or their substitute decision maker has provided informed consent to a shorter interval.

Vaccine Product

- Nuvaxovid™ COVID-19 vaccine (DIN: 02525364)

Eligibility Criteria for Second Dose Administration

Individuals who are at least 18 years old and who do not have contraindications to Nuvaxovid™ and:

- have contraindications such as a confirmed allergy to components of the mRNA vaccines or a viral vector vaccine for their first dose (i.e., severe allergic reaction or anaphylaxis to that vaccine as assessed by an appropriate physician / nurse practitioner and documented in a COVID-19 Vaccination: Allergy Form); or
- who are otherwise not able or willing to receive an mRNA vaccine may receive their second dose with Nuvaxovid™ if recommended and if:
    - 8 weeks have passed since their first dose with the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine, the Moderna vaccine, or the Nuvaxovid™ vaccine;
    - at least 8 weeks have passed since their first dose with the AstraZeneca / COVISHIELD vaccine; or
    - less than 8 weeks have passed since their first dose, provided that the interval between doses is consistent with the product monograph of the vaccine used for the individual's first dose and the individual or their substitute decision maker has provided informed consent to a shorter interval.

Note: at this time the Province has a limited supply of the Nuvaxovid™ vaccine. Pharmacies should work with their public health unit to determine how eligible individuals (as defined above) can receive the vaccine.

Vaccine Product

- COVISHIELD COVID-19 vaccine (DIN: 02512947)
- COVID-19 vaccine AstraZeneca (PIN: 09857655)

Eligibility Criteria for Second Dose Administration

Individuals who are at least 18 years old and who have contraindications such as a confirmed allergy to components of the mRNA vaccines OR who received the Pfizer-BioNtech (12+ formulation) or Moderna mRNA vaccine for their first dose and had a severe allergic reaction or anaphylaxis to that vaccine as assessed by an appropriate

physician / nurse practitioner and documented in a COVID-19 Vaccination: Allergy Form, may receive their second dose with a viral vector vaccine (for example, AstraZeneca / COVISHIELD vaccine) if recommended and if:

- 8 weeks have passed since their first dose with the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine, the Moderna vaccine or the Nuvaxovid™ vaccine;
- at least 8 weeks have passed since their first dose with the AstraZeneca / COVISHIELD vaccine; or
- less than 8 weeks have passed since their first dose, provided that the interval between doses is consistent with the product monograph of the vaccine used for the individual's first dose and the individual or their substitute decision maker has provided informed consent to a shorter interval.

Note: at this time the Province has a limited supply of viral vector vaccines. Pharmacies should work with their public health unit to determine how eligible individuals (as defined above) can receive the vaccine.

Vaccine Product

- Covifenz® COVID-19 Vaccine (DIN: 02521326)

Eligibility Criteria for Second Dose Administration

Individuals who are 18 to 64 years of age or older and who do not have contraindications to Covifenz® and:

- have contraindications such as a confirmed allergy to components of the mRNA vaccines, if the individual has been assessed by an appropriate physician / nurse practitioner and the pharmacy has received a completed COVID-19 Vaccination: Allergy Form prior to administrating the Covifenz® vaccine; or
- are otherwise not able or willing to receive to receive an mRNA vaccine

Note: at this time the Province has a limited and uncertain supply of the Covifenz® vaccine. Pharmacies should work with their public health unit to determine how eligible individuals (as defined above) can receive this vaccine.

Table 3 – Eligibility for third or booster dose administration**

For more information on third doses or boosters, refer to the ministry's COVID-19 Vaccine Guidance for information.

For Booster Doses

Individuals are recommended to receive an mRNA vaccine for their primary series and booster dose(s).

1. For individuals who are eligible to receive a booster dose for the fall 2022 (at least 6 months from a previous dose), NACI recommends that the authorized dose of a bivalent Omicron-containing mRNA COVID-19 vaccine should be offered, subject to the eligibility rules in Table 3 below.

    - For children 5-11 years old the only authorized vaccine for a booster dose is monovalent Pfizer (10 mcg).
    - Immunocompetent adolescents 12 to 17 years are eligible for monovalent mRNA booster doses (monovalent Pfizer-BioNTech is preferred, but monovalent Moderna may be given with informed consent and based on clinical discretion).
    - Adolescents 12 to 17 years of age with moderately to severely immunocompromising conditions are eligible for booster doses of the bivalent Moderna COVID-19 vaccine. This is an off-label use and must be based on clinical discretion. While the bivalent vaccine is preferred, monovalent Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna may be given with informed consent (monovalent Pfizer-BioNTech is preferred over monovalent Moderna for this age group).
    - Individuals, 18 years and older are recommended to receive a bivalent Omicron-containing mRNA COVID-19 booster dose.

2. Novavax may be offered to individuals in the authorized age group without contraindications to the vaccine who are not able or willing to receive an mRNA COVID-19 vaccine.

3. A booster dose of a viral vector Janssen COVID-19 vaccine should only be offered when all other Health Canada authorized COVID-19 vaccines are contraindicated.

The following rules apply to the interpretation of the eligibility criteria in Table 3 below.

- Individuals who received AstraZeneca/COVISHIELD COVID-19 vaccine for their first and second dose (primary series) are recommended to receive an mRNA vaccine for their third or booster dose(s).
- People who experienced 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 appropriate physician / nurse practitioner. See NACI's recommendations on the use of COVID-19 vaccines for more information.
- At this time the Province has a limited supply of Nuvaxovid™, Moderna (0.10mg/mL), Covifenz® and viral vector vaccines. Specifically regarding Covifenz®, the supply is uncertain. Pharmacies should work with their public health unit to determine how eligible individuals (as defined above) can receive the vaccine.

- The Janssen COVID-19 primary vaccine series involves a single dose. However, individuals who received the single dose Janssen vaccine are eligible for a supplementary or booster dose in accordance with this section. References in this section to individuals who have already received a two dose series of a COVID-19 vaccine shall be interpreted to include individuals who received the single dose Janssen vaccine. In addition, for immunocompromised individuals who received the single dose Janssen vaccine, references in this section to a third dose shall be interpreted to mean a second dose.
- Subject to the above recommendation regarding bivalent Omicron-containing mRNA COVID-19 vaccines, individuals who received a second dose of an mRNA vaccine (Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna) in a primary series should be offered the same mRNA vaccine for their third or booster dose, unless the same mRNA vaccine is not readily available* or the vaccine used for the second dose is unknown, in which case, another mRNA vaccine can be considered interchangeable and should be offered. *Note, readily available means easily available at the time of vaccination without delay or vaccine wastage.
- If an individual 5 years of age or older received doses out of province[8] but is considered to be fully vaccinated in Ontario, they are eligible for a booster dose if at least 3 months (84 days) have passed since their last dose (recommended interval is 6 months after their last dose).

Table 3 – Eligibility for third or booster dose administration**

(please review preamble to Table 3)

Vaccine Product: 3-Dose Primary Series
• Pediatric Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine, orange cap (DIN 02522454) • Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 (12+ formulation) vaccine, purple cap (DIN: 02509210) • Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 (12+ formulation) vaccine, grey cap (DIN: 02527863); • COVID-19 vaccine MODERNA 0.10mg/mL (DIN: 02527685) • COVID-19 vaccine MODERNA 0.20mg/mL (DIN: 02510014) • Nuvaxovid™ COVID-19 vaccine (DIN: 02525364) • COVISHIELD COVID-19 vaccine (DIN: 02512947) • COVID-19 vaccine AstraZeneca (PIN: 09857655) • Janssen COVID-19 VACCINE (DIN 02513153) • Covifenz® COVID-19 Vaccine (DIN: 02521326)
Eligibility Criteria for Third Dose Administration (for those who are immunocompromised and require a three-dose vaccine series) ***3rd Dose for Immunocompromised Individuals***

[8] For more information refer to COVID-19 Guidance for Individuals Vaccinated Outside of Ontario/Canada

- Individuals 6 months of age and older (or 18 years of age and older, in the case of Nuvaxovid™ or viral vector vaccines; or 18 to 64 years of age, in the case of Covifenz®) from the following moderately to severely immunocompromised population groups that present with a referral letter from their health care provider OR are taking an immunosuppressant medication listed here, if at least 2 months (56 days) have passed since receiving their second dose or at an interval of at least 28 days as directed in writing by a health care provider:
    - Individuals receiving dialysis (hemodialysis or peritoneal dialysis)
    - Individuals receiving active[9] treatment (e.g., chemotherapy, targeted therapies, immunotherapy) for solid tumour or hematologic malignancies
    - Recipients of solid-organ transplant and taking immunosuppressive therapy
    - Recipients of chimeric antigen receptor (CAR)-T-cell therapy or hematopoietic stem cell transplant (within 2 years of transplantation or taking immunosuppression therapy).
    - Individuals with moderate to severe primary immunodeficiency (e.g., DiGeorge syndrome, Wiskott-Aldrich syndrome).
    - Individuals with HIV with prior AIDS defining illness **or** prior CD4 count ≤ 200/mm3 **or** prior CD4 fraction ≤ 15% **or** (in children 5-11 years) perinatally acquired HIV infection.
    - Individuals receiving active treatment with the following categories of immunosuppressive therapies: anti-B cell therapies[10] (monoclonal antibodies targeting CD19, CD20 and CD22), high-dose systemic corticosteroids (refer to the Canadian Immunization Guide for suggested definition of high dose steroids), alkylating agents, antimetabolites, or tumor-necrosis factor (TNF) inhibitors and other biologic agents that are significantly immunosuppressive.

Note: Pharmacists may verify whether a patient is eligible for a 3rd dose of a COVID-19 vaccine based on the patient's use of an immunosuppressant medication listed here by referring to a patient's recent prescription label or prescription receipt or their medication profile. If an individual presents a prescription of a medication that is not listed here, they should be directed to their health care provider to receive a referral form/letter for a third dose of the COVID-19 vaccine.

Vaccine Product: Boosters

- Pediatric Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine, orange cap (DIN 02522454);

[9] Active treatment includes patients who have completed treatment within 3 months. Active treatment is defined as chemotherapy, targeted therapies, immunotherapy, and excludes individuals receiving therapy that does not suppress the immune system (e.g. solely hormonal therapy or radiation therapy). See Ontario Health/Cancer Care Ontario's Frequently Asked Questions for more information.

[10] Active treatment for patients receiving B-cell depleting therapy includes patients who have completed treatment within 12 months

- Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 (12+ formulation) vaccine, purple cap (DIN: 02509210);
- Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 (12+ formulation) vaccine, grey cap (DIN: 02527863);
- COVID-19 vaccine MODERNA 0.20mg/mL (DIN: 02510014)
- COVID-19 vaccine MODERNA BIVALENT 0.10mg/mL (DIN: 02530252)
- Nuvaxovid™ COVID-19 vaccine (DIN: 02525364)
- COVISHIELD COVID-19 vaccine (DIN: 02512947)
- COVID-19 vaccine AstraZeneca (PIN: 09857655)
- Janssen COVID-19 VACCINE (DIN 02513153)

Eligibility Criteria for Booster Dose Administration after a primary series

<u>For vaccines other than the bivalent Omicron-containing mRNA COVID-19 vaccine</u>:

Individuals aged 12 years or older are eligible for a booster dose, if at least 6 months (168 days)* have passed since they received their last dose.

- * Note: With informed consent, individuals aged 12 or older may receive the booster dose in less than 6 months as long as 3 months have passed since they received their last dose.

Individuals aged 5 to 11 years are eligible for a booster dose, if at least 6 months (168 days) have passed since completing a primary COVID-19 vaccine series, including those who are moderately to severely immunocompromised who have completed a 3-dose primary vaccine series[11]), (see above *3rd Dose for Immunocompromised Individuals*).

- Note: With informed consent, individuals aged 5 to 11 years may receive their booster dose in less than 6 months (168 days) as long as 3 months have passed since completing their primary COVID-19 vaccine series.
- Only the Pediatric Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine (orange cap) is authorized as a booster dose for individuals aged 5 to 11 years.

<u>For the bivalent Omicron-containing mRNA COVID-19 vaccine</u>:

Individuals aged 18 years and older may receive a COVID-19 bivalent (Moderna) booster dose, if at least six months (168 days)*, have passed since the individual's last dose, regardless of the number of booster doses received.

- Individuals who are 12 years and older with an underlying medical condition that places them at high risk of COVID-19
  - For adolescents 12-17 years of age with moderately to severely immunocompromising conditions and/or who have biological or social risk

[11] Individuals (12 years of age and older) who were receiving active treatment necessitating a three dose primary series, are eligible for a booster dose, even if not receiving active treatment currently.

factors that place them at high risk of severe outcomes of COVID-19, a booster dose of the bivalent Moderna COVID-19 vaccine may be offered off-label based on clinical discretion. ***Note:** With informed consent, individuals listed above may receive the COVID-19 bivalent (Moderna) booster dose in less than 6 months as long as 3 months have passed since they received their last dose.

Table 4 – Eligibility to repeat COVID-19 vaccine primary series

It is recommended that a re-vaccination with a repeat COVID-19 vaccine primary series plus booster (if applicable) be initiated post-transplantation for hematopoietic stem cell transplant (HSCT), hematopoietic cell transplants (HCT) (autologous or allogeneic), and recipients of CAR-T-cell therapy given the loss of immunity following therapy or transplant.[12] Optimal timing for re-immunization should be determined on a case-by-case basis in consultation with the clinical team.

Vaccine Product
• Infant Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine, Maroon Cap, (DIN 02530325) • Pediatric Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine, orange cap (DIN 02522454); • Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 (12+ formulation) vaccine, purple cap (DIN: 02509210); • Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 (12+ formulation) vaccine, grey cap (DIN: 02527863); • COVID-19 vaccine MODERNA 0.10mg/mL (DIN: 02527685) • COVID-19 vaccine MODERNA 0.20mg/mL (DIN: 02510014) • Nuvaxovid™ COVID-19 vaccine (DIN: 02525364 • COVISHIELD COVID-19 vaccine (DIN: 02512947) • COVID-19 vaccine AstraZeneca (PIN: 09857655) • Janssen COVID-19 VACCINE (DIN 02513153) • Covifenz® COVID-19 Vaccine (DIN: 02521326)
Eligibility Criteria for re-vaccination series Individuals who already received a primary COVID-19 vaccine series (plus booster dose, if applicable) and who receive hematopoietic stem cell transplants (HSCT), hematopoietic cell transplants (HCT) (autologous or allogeneic), and recipients of CAR-T-cell therapy, due to the loss of immunity following therapy or transplant. Re-vaccination series including first, second, and third dose intervals based on a referral letter from a health care provider.

[12] As per the Canadian Immunization Guideline, HSCT recipients should be viewed as vaccine naïve (i.e. never immunized) and require re-immunization after transplant.

If applicable a booster dose may be administered if at least 3 months (84 days) have passed since completing re-vaccination with a complete COVID-19 vaccine series.

***** See Executive Officer Notice dated May 11, 2021 regarding the Ministry of Health's direction to pause the administration of first doses of publicly funded AstraZeneca / COVISHIELD COVID-19 vaccines in Ontario pharmacies, available here.

**See the most recent version of the Executive Officer Notice: Administration of Publicly Funded COVID-19 Vaccines in Ontario Pharmacies – Billing for age restrictions for the vaccines based on the applicable product monographs, available here.

Pharmacies should be informed and stay current with the vaccine's official indications in accordance with Health Canada's approved product monograph, including information regarding recommended dosing as per the product monograph. Ontario is funding third and booster doses, based on recommendations of NACI, the Chief Medical Officer of Health and other health experts as noted in the COVID-19 Vaccine Guidance and guidance from NACI and the OIAC.

This eligibility criteria may be updated from time to time. Please refer to the ministry website for the most recent version of this notice and for details of the provincial rollout plan, please visit the ministry's website.

Prior EO Notices

- Executive Officer Notice: Administration of Publicly Funded COVID-19 vaccines in Ontario Pharmacies, effective March 10, 2021.
- Executive Officer Notice: Administration of Publicly Funded COVID-19 vaccines in Ontario Pharmacies – Eligibility, effective March 22, 2021.
- Executive Officer Notice: Administration of Publicly Funded COVID-19 vaccines in Ontario Pharmacies – Eligibility, effective April 1, 2021.
- Executive Officer Notice: Administration of Publicly Funded COVID-19 vaccines in Ontario Pharmacies – Eligibility, effective April 19, 2021.
- Executive Officer Notice: Administration of Publicly Funded COVID-19 vaccines in Ontario Pharmacies – Eligibility, effective April 30, 2021.
- Executive Officer Notice: Administration of Publicly Funded COVID-19 vaccines in Ontario Pharmacies – Eligibility, effective May 6, 2021.
- Executive Officer Notice: Pause of the Administration of First Doses of Publicly Funded AstraZeneca / COVISHIELD COVID-19 Vaccines in Ontario Pharmacies (May 11, 2021)

- Executive Officer Notice: Administration of Publicly Funded COVID-19 vaccines in Ontario Pharmacies – Eligibility, effective May 13, 2021.
- Executive Officer Notice: Administration of Publicly Funded COVID-19 vaccines in Ontario Pharmacies – Eligibility, effective May 18, 2021.
- Executive Officer Notice: Administration of Second Doses for Individuals who received First Dose of AstraZeneca / COVISHIELD COVID-19 Vaccines in Ontario Pharmacies (May 21, 2021)
- Executive Officer Notice: Administration of Publicly Funded COVID-19 vaccines in Ontario Pharmacies – Eligibility, effective May 23, 2021.
- Executive Officer Notice: Administration of Publicly Funded COVID-19 vaccines in Ontario Pharmacies – Eligibility, effective May 31, 2021.
- Executive Officer Notice: Administration of Publicly Funded COVID-19 vaccines in Ontario Pharmacies – Eligibility, effective June 4, 2021.
- Executive Officer Notice: Administration of Publicly Funded COVID-19 vaccines in Ontario Pharmacies – Eligibility, effective June 14, 2021.
- Executive Officer Notice: Administration of Publicly Funded COVID-19 vaccines in Ontario Pharmacies – Eligibility, effective June 17, 2021.
- Executive Officer Notice: Administration of Publicly Funded COVID-19 vaccines in Ontario Pharmacies – Eligibility, effective June 25, 2021.
- Executive Officer Notice: Administration of Publicly Funded COVID-19 vaccines in Ontario Pharmacies – Eligibility, effective July 5, 2021.
- Executive Officer Notice: Administration of Publicly Funded COVID-19 vaccines in Ontario Pharmacies – Eligibility, effective August 18, 2021.
- Executive Officer Notice: Administration of Publicly Funded COVID-19 vaccines in Ontario Pharmacies – Eligibility, effective September 1, 2021.
- Executive Officer Notice: Administration of Publicly Funded COVID-19 vaccines in Ontario Pharmacies – Eligibility, effective September 8, 2021.
- Executive Officer Notice: Administration of Publicly Funded COVID-19 vaccines in Ontario Pharmacies – Eligibility, effective October 1, 2021.
- Executive Officer Notice: Administration of Publicly Funded COVID-19 vaccines in Ontario Pharmacies – Eligibility, effective October 8, 2021.
- Executive Officer Notice: Administration of Publicly Funded COVID-19 vaccines in Ontario Pharmacies – Eligibility, effective November 3, 2021.
- Executive Officer Notice: Administration of Publicly Funded COVID-19 vaccines in Ontario Pharmacies – Eligibility, effective November 25, 2021.
- Executive Officer Notice: Administration of Publicly Funded COVID-19 vaccines in Ontario Pharmacies – Eligibility, effective December 2, 2021.
- Executive Officer Notice: Administration of Publicly Funded COVID-19 vaccines in Ontario Pharmacies – Eligibility, effective December 17, 2021.

- Executive Officer Notice: Administration of Publicly Funded COVID-19 vaccines in Ontario Pharmacies – Eligibility, effective December 20, 2021.
- Executive Officer Notice: Administration of Publicly Funded COVID-19 vaccines in Ontario Pharmacies – Eligibility, effective January 13, 2022.
- Executive Officer Notice: Administration of Publicly Funded COVID-19 vaccines in Ontario Pharmacies – Eligibility, effective February 18, 2022.
- Executive Officer Notice: Administration of Publicly Funded COVID-19 vaccines in Ontario Pharmacies – Eligibility, effective March 25, 2022.
- Executive Officer Notice: Administration of Publicly Funded COVID-19 vaccines in Ontario Pharmacies – Eligibility, effective April 5, 2022.
- Executive Officer Notice: Administration of Publicly Funded COVID-19 vaccines in Ontario Pharmacies – Eligibility, effective May 2, 2022.
- Executive Officer Notice: Administration of Publicly Funded COVID-19 vaccines in Ontario Pharmacies – Eligibility, effective July 14, 2022.
- Executive Officer Notice: Administration of Publicly Funded COVID-19 vaccines in Ontario Pharmacies – Eligibility, effective July 28, 2022.
- Executive Officer Notice: Administration of Publicly Funded COVID-19 vaccines in Ontario Pharmacies – Eligibility, effective August 8, 2022.
- Executive Officer Notice: Administration of Publicly Funded COVID-19 vaccines in Ontario Pharmacies – Eligibility, effective September 1, 2022.
- Executive Officer Notice: Administration of Publicly Funded COVID-19 vaccines in Ontario Pharmacies – Eligibility, effective September 12, 2022.

Additional Information:

For pharmacy billing:

Please call ODB Pharmacy Help Desk at: 1-800-668-6641

For COVID-19 vaccine rollout in pharmacy:

Please email the ministry at: OPDPInfoBox@ontario.ca

For Ministry COVID-19 Vaccine-Relevant Information and Planning Resources

Please access this website

For all other Health Care Providers and the Public:

Please call ServiceOntario, Infoline at 1-866-532-3161 TTY 1-800-387-5559. In Toronto, TTY 416-327-4282.