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

Effective December 21st, 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 November 8th, 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. During the 2022-2023 respiratory season, the temporary enrollment of non-UIIP stores into the COVID-19 vaccination program continues to be available. This is to ensure there are as many access points as possible for vaccine administration and to help support the administration of the new vaccine products coming into the province.

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.

[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.

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.

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 have received COVID-19 vaccines outside of Ontario or Canada should contact their local public health unit to have their COVID-19 immunization record documented in $COVAX_{ON}$. Pharmacies should refer to the most recent COVID-19 Vaccine Guidance for information on completing the primary series with different vaccine combinations.

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.

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

For a primary series

1. **NACI preferentially recommends receipt of monovalent mRNA COVID-19 vaccines (i.e., Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna) to complete the primary series for all individuals 6 months and older**, without contraindications to the vaccine.

2. Novavax may be offered to individuals in the authorized age group (18 years and older) without contraindications to the vaccine who are not able or willing to receive an mRNA COVID-19 vaccine.
3. Janssen may be offered to individuals who are 18 years and older without contraindications to the vaccine only when all other authorized COVID-19 vaccines are contraindicated.

The Province has a limited supply of Novavax and Janssen vaccines. Pharmacies should work with their public health unit to determine how eligible individuals (as defined below) can receive these vaccines[3].

The recommended interval between doses in the primary series is 2 months (56 days). Refer to the ministry's most recent **COVID-19 Vaccine Guidance** for more information on recommended and minimum intervals between doses.

Product Preferences

As per NACI, **moderately to severely immunocompromised children 6 months to 4 years of age** should receive a **three-dose primary series of monovalent Moderna (25 mcg)** as the preferred product. This preferential recommendation is not related to any product safety concerns and is only due to the feasibility of series completion using three instead of four doses. If monovalent Moderna (25 mcg) is not readily available, a four-dose primary series of monovalent Pfizer (3 mcg) may be offered. A four-dose primary series of monovalent Pfizer (3mcg) may have feasibility challenges, including the need to schedule four separate appointments and space appointments appropriately relative to other childhood vaccination appointments. Vaccine providers should also consider the total length of time it will take to complete a four-dose primary series at the recommended intervals (12 to 24 weeks) compared to a three-dose primary series (8 to 16 weeks), and the risk associated with incomplete protection during this period.

There is no preference between monovalent Pfizer-BioNTech (3 mcg) or monovalent Moderna (25 mcg) for immunocompetent children 6 months to 4 years of age.

Moderately to severely immunocompromised children 5 to 11 years of age are preferentially recommended to receive a **three-dose primary series of monovalent Pfizer-BioNTech (10 mcg)** vaccine. However, children 6 to 11 years may receive three doses of monovalent Moderna (50 mcg) based on clinical discretion.

Moderately to severely immunocompromised individuals 12 to 29 years of age are preferentially recommended to receive **three doses of monovalent Pfizer-BioNTech (30 mcg)** but may receive three doses of monovalent Moderna (100 mcg) based on clinical discretion.

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

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 **monovalent Pfizer-BioNTech** vaccine for individuals **5 to 29 years of age if receiving a primary series dose, or 5 to 17 years of age if receiving a booster dose (monovalent Pfizer-BioNTech is the only booster authorized for those 5 to 11 years and bivalent Pfizer-BioNTech is the only booster authorized for those 12 to 17 years).** 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 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). See COVID-19 Vaccine Guidance for more details on administering to special populations.

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

Table 1[4] – Primary Series: Eligibility for first or single dose administration

Vaccine Product • Pfizer-BioNTech Comirnaty™ 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 • Pfizer-BioNTech Comirnaty™ 10mcg/0.2mL orange cap (DIN 02522454)
Eligibility Criteria for First Dose Administration • Children who are 5 to 11 years of age

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

Vaccine Product • Pfizer-BioNTech Comirnaty™ 30mcg/0.3mL purple cap (DIN: 02509210); • Pfizer-BioNTech Comirnaty™ 30mcg/0.3mL grey cap (DIN: 02527863)
Eligibility Criteria for First Dose Administration • Individuals who are 12 years of age or older
Vaccine Product • Moderna Spikevax™ 0.10mg/mL blue cap (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
Vaccine Product • Moderna Spikevax™ 0.20mg/mL red cap (DIN: 02510014)
Eligibility Criteria for First Dose Administration • Individuals who are 6 years of age or older
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 are 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 • Janssen COVID-19 Vaccine (DIN 02513153)
Eligibility Criteria for First or Single Dose Administration • Individuals who are 18 years of age or older and have contraindications to all other COVID-19 vaccines funded by Ontario Note: at this time the Province has a limited supply of the Janssen vaccine. Pharmacies should work with their public health unit to determine how eligible individuals (as defined above) can receive this vaccine.

Table 2 – Primary Series: Eligibility for second, third, or fourth dose administration[5]

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

The same mRNA COVID-19 vaccine product should be offered for the subsequent dose in a primary series started with a specific mRNA COVID-19 vaccine. However, in following the established guidance on interchangeability of mRNA COVID-19 vaccines, when the same mRNA vaccine product is not readily available, is unknown, or is no longer authorized for the age group (e.g., once a child has turned 6 years), another mRNA COVID-19 vaccine product recommended for that age group may be considered interchangeable. Pharmacies should refer to the most recent COVID-19 Vaccine Guidance for more information.

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

Infants and children (6 months to 4 years of age) receiving either Moderna 25 mcg or Pfizer 3 mcg are recommended to receive 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, due to the difference in the number of doses in the primary series between the two products.

Immunocompromised Individuals

An extended primary series is recommended for certain moderately to severely immunocompromised individuals with the aim of enhancing the immune response and establishing an adequate level of protection for individuals who may develop a sub-optimal immune response to the standard primary series, which typically constitutes two doses of vaccine (the exception is the monovalent Pfizer-BioNTech (3 mcg) primary series for individuals 6 months to 4 years which requires three doses to complete a standard primary series). An extended primary series constitutes administration of an additional dose to complete the primary series. See the COVID-19 chapter in the Canadian Immunization Guide: Immunocompromised persons for more information.

Immunocompromised 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 fourth dose to complete their primary series.

Note: A four-dose primary series is only recommended with the monovalent Infant Pfizer (3 mcg) for children 6 months to 4 years of age.

[5] Table 2 includes 3 and 4-dose primary series for Infant Pfizer BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine.

An extended primary series of mRNA COVID-19 vaccines is recommended for the following immunocompromised populations eligible for vaccination with the vaccine product authorized for their age group:

- Individuals receiving dialysis (hemodialysis or peritoneal dialysis)
- Individuals receiving active[6] 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).
- HIV with AIDS-defining illness in last 12 months before starting vaccine series, or severe immune compromise with CD4 count <200 cells/uL or CD4 percentage <15%, or without HIV viral suppression
- Individuals receiving active treatment with the following categories of immunosuppressive therapies: anti-B cell therapies[7] (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.

[6] 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.
[7] Active treatment for patients receiving B-cell depleting therapy includes patients who have completed treatment within 12 months

Table 2[8] – Primary Series: Eligibility for second, third, or fourth dose administration

(please review preamble to Table 2)

Vaccine Product • Pfizer-BioNTech Comirnaty™ 3 mcg/0.2mL maroon cap (DIN 02530325)
Eligibility Criteria for Second Dose Administration Children 6 months to 4 years old who received their first dose of the Infant Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine, may receive their second dose of the Infant Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine, if: • 8 weeks (56 days) have passed since last dose or the minimum interval in the the most recent COVID-19 Vaccine Guidance
Eligibility Criteria for Third Dose Administration Children 6 months to 4 years old who received their first and second doses of the Infant Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine, may receive their third dose of the Infant Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine if: • 8 weeks (56 days) have passed since last dose or the minimum interval in the most recent COVID-19 Vaccine Guidance
Eligibility Criteria for Fourth Dose Administration Immunocompromised children 6 months to 4 years old who received their first, second, and third doses of Infant Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine may receive a fourth dose to complete their primary series if: • 8 weeks (56 days) have passed since last dose or the minimum interval in the most recent COVID-19 Vaccine Guidance
Vaccine Product • Pfizer-BioNTech Comirnaty™ 10mcg/0.2mL orange cap (DIN 02522454)
Eligibility Criteria for Second Dose Administration Children 5 to 11 years old who received their first dose of the Pfizer vaccine may receive their second dose with the Pediatric Pfizer vaccine if: • 8 weeks (56 days) have passed since last dose or the minimum interval in the the most recent COVID-19 Vaccine Guidance

[8] For age restrictions for the vaccines based on the applicable product monographs 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 Third Dose Administration

Immunocompromised children 5 to 11 years who received their first and second doses of the Pfizer vaccine may receive a third dose to complete their primary series if:

- 8 weeks (56 days) have passed since last dose or the minimum interval in the most recent COVID-19 Vaccine Guidance

Vaccine Product

- Pfizer-BioNTech Comirnaty™ 30mcg/0.3mL purple cap (DIN: 02509210)
- Pfizer-BioNTech Comirnaty™ 30mcg/0.3mL grey cap (DIN: 02527863)
- Moderna Spikevax™ 0.20mg/mL red cap (DIN: 02510014)

Eligibility Criteria for Second Dose Administration

Individuals 12 years and older who received their first dose of a mRNA vaccine (Pfizer or Moderna) may receive their second dose if:

- 8 weeks (56 days) have passed since last dose or the minimum interval in the the most recent COVID-19 Vaccine Guidance

Eligibility Criteria for Third Dose Administration

Immunocompromised individuals 12 years and older who received their first and second doses of a mRNA vaccine (Pfizer or Moderna) may receive a third dose to complete their primary series if:

- 8 weeks (56 days) have passed since last dose or the minimum interval in the most recent COVID-19 Vaccine Guidance

Vaccine Product

Moderna Spikevax™ 0.10mg/mL blue cap (DIN 02527685)

Eligibility Criteria for Second Dose Administration

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

- 8 weeks have passed since last dose or the minimum interval in the the most recent COVID-19 Vaccine Guidance

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

Eligibility Criteria for Third Dose Administration

Immunocompromised children 6 months to 5 years old who received their first and second doses of Moderna 0.10mg/mL vaccine may receive their third dose to complete their primary series if:

- 8 weeks (56 days) have passed since last dose or the minimum interval in the most recent COVID-19 Vaccine Guidance

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** are not able or willing to receive an mRNA vaccine may receive their second dose with Nuvaxovid if recommended **and** if:

- 8 weeks (56 days) have passed since their first dose of the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine, the Moderna vaccine, or the Nuvaxovid vaccine;
- at least 8 weeks have passed since their first dose of the AstraZeneca / COVISHIELD vaccine.

Refer to the ministry's most recent COVID-19 Vaccine Guidance for information on the minimum interval between doses and a three-dose primary series for immunocompromised individuals.

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.

Table 3 – Eligibility for booster dose administration

Staying Up to Date[9]:

- For those **6 months to 4 years**, means having a completed primary series.
- For those **5 years and older,** means completion of the primary series, receipt of a booster dose (monovalent or bivalent) and that the last COVID-19 vaccine received was within the last 6 months.

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

[9] This definition is based on NACI recommendations for COVID-19 vaccine booster doses, however, is subject to change as the COVID-19 pandemic evolves.

All Ontarians aged five years and older are eligible to receive a booster dose after completing their primary series**.**

The optimal interval after a previous COVID-19 vaccination or confirmed SARS-CoV-2 infection is 6 months. A shortened interval of at least 3 months may be considered in the context of heightened epidemiologic risk and for those at high risk of severe COVID-19 outcomes.

Individuals are recommended to receive a mRNA vaccine for their booster dose(s).

Bivalent boosters (in authorized age groups) are recommended over monovalent boosters. Bivalent Moderna (50 mcg) targets the BA1 Omicron subvariant, while the bivalent Pfizer-BioNTech (30 mcg) and bivalent Pfizer-BioNTech (10 mcg) target the BA4/5 Omicron subvariants.

- The **bivalent Pfizer-BioNTech (10 mcg)** booster dose is the ONLY authorized bivalent product for **individuals 5 to 11 years of age**.
    - Individuals with an underlying medical condition that places them at high risk of severe illness due to COVID-19 (including those who are moderately to severely immunocompromised and who have received an extended primary series) are **strongly recommended** to receive a booster dose.
- The **bivalent Pfizer-BioNTech (30 mcg)** booster dose is the ONLY authorized bivalent product for **individuals 12 to 17 years of age.**
    - Bivalent Moderna (50 mcg) may be offered as a booster for individuals 12 to 17 years of age with moderately to severely immunocompromising conditions with informed consent. The use of bivalent Moderna in this population is off-label and based on clinical judgement.
- There is no preferential recommendation between **bivalent Moderna (50 mcg) or bivalent Pfizer-BioNTech (30 mcg)** as a booster dose for **individuals 18 years of age and older**.

In accordance with NACI, the following high-risk groups are **strongly recommended** to receive a booster dose this 2022-2023 respiratory season[10]:

- Individuals aged 65 years and older
- Residents of long-term care homes, retirement homes, Elder Care Lodges, and individuals living in other congregate setting that are 12 years of age or older
- Individuals 12 years and older with moderately to severely immunocompromising conditions
- Individuals 12 years of age and older with an underlying medical condition that places them at high risk of severe COVID-19

[10] In Ontario, the start of the respiratory season is defined as on or after September 1, 2022.

- Health care workers[11]
- Pregnant individuals
- Individuals who identify as First Nations, Inuit or Métis and their adult non-Indigenous household members
- Individuals in racialized communities and/or marginalized communities disproportionately affected by COVID-19

For individuals in authorized age groups who are not able or willing to receive a bivalent Omicron-containing mRNA COVID-19 vaccine, an original monovalent mRNA COVID-19 vaccine may be offered.

Individuals who received AstraZeneca/COVISHIELD COVID-19[12] 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 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/immunologist or another appropriate physician. See the Canadian Immunization Guide for more information.

A booster dose of 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.

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 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.

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

[11] Health care workers are not at a higher risk of severe outcomes, unless they belong to another high-risk group. However, patient-facing health care workers who care for high-risk patients are recommended to be vaccinated to protect their vulnerable patients and all health care workers are recommended to be vaccinated to ensure health system capacity.
[12] The AstraZeneca/COVISHIELD vaccine is currently not available in Ontario.

Table 3[13] – Eligibility for booster dose administration

(please review preamble to Table 3)

Vaccine Product
• Pfizer-BioNTech Comirnaty™ Bivalent 10mcg/0.2mL orange cap (DIN 02533197); • Pfizer-BioNTech Comirnaty™ Bivalent 30mcg/0.3mL grey cap (DIN: 02531461); • Pfizer-BioNTech Comirnaty™ 10mcg/0.2mL orange cap (DIN 02522454); • Pfizer-BioNTech Comirnaty™ 30mcg/0.3mL purple cap (DIN: 02509210); • Pfizer-BioNTech Comirnaty™ 30mcg/0.3mL grey cap (DIN: 02527863); • Moderna Spikevax™ Bivalent 0.10mg/mL blue cap (DIN: 02530252); • Moderna Spikevax™ 0.20mg/mL red cap (DIN: 02510014); • Nuvaxovid COVID-19 Vaccine (DIN: 02525364); • Janssen COVID-19 Vaccine (DIN 02513153)
Eligibility Criteria for Booster Dose Administration after a primary series **Bivalent boosters (in authorized age groups) are recommended over monovalent boosters.** Individuals aged **18 years and older** may receive a Moderna (50 mcg) or Pfizer (30 mcg) COVID-19 bivalent vaccine 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 aged **12 to 17 years** may receive a Pfizer COVID-19 bivalent vaccine (30 mcg) 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. • The Moderna COVID-19 bivalent vaccine (50 mcg) may be offered as a booster for individuals 12 to 17 years with moderately to severely immunocompromising conditions with informed consent. The use of bivalent Moderna in this population is off-label and based on clinical discretion. Individuals aged **5 to 11 years** may receive a Pfizer COVID-19 bivalent vaccine (10 mcg) booster dose if at least six months (168 days) have passed since completing a primary COVID-19 vaccine series. Note**:** With informed consent, individuals listed above may receive the COVID-19 bivalent booster dose in less than 6 months as long as 3 months have passed since they received their last dose. Refer to the ministry's most recent COVID-19 Vaccine Guidance for more information. Infants and children **6 months to 4 years** are **not** eligible for booster doses at this time.

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

Table 4[14] – 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.[15] Optimal timing for re-immunization should be determined on a case-by-case basis in consultation with the clinical team.

Vaccine Product
• Pfizer-BioNTech Comirnaty™ 3mcg/0.2mL maroon cap (DIN 02530325); • Pfizer-BioNTech Comirnaty™ 10mcg/0.2mL orange cap (DIN 02522454); • Pfizer-BioNTech Comirnaty™ 30mcg/0.3mL purple cap (DIN: 02509210); • Pfizer-BioNTech Comirnaty™ 30mcg/0.3mL grey cap (DIN: 02527863); • Moderna Spikevax™ 0.10mg/mL blue cap (DIN: 02527685); • Moderna Spikevax™ 0.20mg/mL red cap (DIN: 02510014); • Nuvaxovid COVID-19 Vaccine (DIN: 02525364); • Janssen COVID-19 Vaccine (DIN 02513153)
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. 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.

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 vaccine doses, based on recommendations of NACI, the Chief Medical Officer of Health and other

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

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

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.
- Executive Officer Notice: Administration of Publicly Funded COVID-19 vaccines in Ontario Pharmacies – Eligibility, effective September 26, 2022.
- Executive Officer Notice: Administration of Publicly Funded COVID-19 vaccines in Ontario Pharmacies – Eligibility, effective October 17, 2022.
- Executive Officer Notice: Administration of Publicly Funded COVID-19 vaccines in Ontario Pharmacies – Eligibility, effective November 8, 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.