Ministry of Health

Staying Up to Date with COVID-19 Vaccines: Recommended Doses

This guidance provides basic information only. This document is not intended to provide or take the place of medical advice, diagnosis or treatment, or legal advice. In the event of any conflict between this guidance document and any applicable legislation, orders or directives issued by the Minister of Health, Minister of Long-Term Care, or the Chief Medical Officer of Health (CMOH), the legislation, order or directive prevails.

Get Vaccinated and Stay Up to Date

- Up to date means a person has received all recommended COVID-19 vaccine doses, including any booster dose(s) when eligible.

Protection after a primary COVID-19 vaccine series decreases over time, especially against the Omicron variant of concern. COVID-19 vaccine booster doses help to increase protection against symptomatic infection and severe outcomes at the individual level and helps to reduce transmission at the population level.

What is considered to be up to date for COVID-19 vaccines will likely need to be modified over time based on availability of new vaccines in the future, potential changes in disease epidemiology and as new evidence on additional booster doses becomes available.

The ‘fully vaccinated’ definition may continue to be used in some settings, and relevant policies, legislation, directives or orders must continue to be followed where applicable.

When Are You Up to Date with Your COVID-19 Vaccines?

People are up to date with their COVID-19 vaccines when they have followed the recommendations listed below and in Table 1. The recommendations will be different depending on the persons age, health status, and which vaccines they have received.
People Aged 12 Years and Older

People aged 12 years and older are recommended to receive a booster dose of a COVID-19 vaccine to be up to date with their COVID-19 vaccines.

This booster dose is recommended 6 months after the last dose of their primary COVID-19 vaccine series if they are 12-17 years old or 3 months after the last dose of their primary COVID-19 vaccine series if they are 18 or older.

Children Aged 5 to 11 Years Old

Children aged 5 to 11 years old are recommended to receive a primary COVID-19 vaccine series to be up to date with their COVID-19 vaccines.

A booster dose of COVID-19 vaccine is not currently recommended for this age group.

People That are Moderately or Severely Immunocompromised

Moderately or severely immunocompromised people aged 5 and older are recommended to receive a 3-dose primary COVID-19 vaccine series.

People aged 12 and older that received a 3-dose primary series are recommended to receive a booster (fourth) dose to be up to date with their COVID-19 vaccines.
### Table 1: COVID-19 immunization series for individuals ≥5 years of age

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age at first dose</th>
<th>Recommended Intervals</th>
<th>Minimum Intervals</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5 to 11 years</td>
<td>1&lt;sup&gt;st&lt;/sup&gt; dose</td>
<td>1&lt;sup&gt;st&lt;/sup&gt; dose</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2&lt;sup&gt;nd&lt;/sup&gt; dose, 8 weeks after 1&lt;sup&gt;st&lt;/sup&gt; dose</td>
<td>2&lt;sup&gt;nd&lt;/sup&gt; dose, 21 days after 1&lt;sup&gt;st&lt;/sup&gt; dose</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12 to 17 years</td>
<td>1&lt;sup&gt;st&lt;/sup&gt; dose</td>
<td>1&lt;sup&gt;st&lt;/sup&gt; dose</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2&lt;sup&gt;nd&lt;/sup&gt; dose, 8 weeks after 1&lt;sup&gt;st&lt;/sup&gt; dose</td>
<td>2&lt;sup&gt;nd&lt;/sup&gt; dose, 21 days after 1&lt;sup&gt;st&lt;/sup&gt; dose</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Booster dose, 6 months after 2&lt;sup&gt;nd&lt;/sup&gt; dose</td>
<td>Booster dose, 8 weeks after 2&lt;sup&gt;nd&lt;/sup&gt; dose</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>≥18 years</td>
<td>1&lt;sup&gt;st&lt;/sup&gt; dose</td>
<td>1&lt;sup&gt;st&lt;/sup&gt; dose</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2&lt;sup&gt;nd&lt;/sup&gt; dose, 8 weeks after 1&lt;sup&gt;st&lt;/sup&gt; dose</td>
<td>2&lt;sup&gt;nd&lt;/sup&gt; dose, 21 days (Pfizer-BioNTech) or 28 days (Moderna) after 1&lt;sup&gt;st&lt;/sup&gt; dose</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Booster dose, 3 months after 2&lt;sup&gt;nd&lt;/sup&gt; dose</td>
<td>Booster dose, 8 weeks after 2&lt;sup&gt;nd&lt;/sup&gt; dose</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Notes:**
- For 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> doses, the vaccine manufacturer indicates the minimum intervals above, however the CIG recommends that the minimum interval between 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> doses is 19 days (Pfizer-BioNTech) or 21 days (Moderna).
- Moderately or severely immunocompromised individuals ≥5 years are recommended to receive a 3 dose primary series. The recommended interval for the 3<sup>rd</sup> dose is 56 days after the 2<sup>nd</sup> dose and the minimum interval is 28 days after the 2<sup>nd</sup> dose.

**People Who Received Vaccines Not Authorized by Health Canada**

People who received only **one or two doses of a non-Health Canada** (HC) authorized COVID-19 vaccine may receive two additional doses in Ontario to be up to date with their COVID-19 vaccines. The first additional dose is recommended 28 days after the previous dose to complete the primary series. A booster dose is then recommended 3 months later (if aged 18 or older) or 6 months later (if aged 12 to 17).

People who received **one HC authorized vaccine and one non-HC authorized vaccine** (in either order) are recommended to receive a booster dose 3 months after the 2<sup>nd</sup> dose.

---

1 See Health Canada’s [website](https://www.canada.ca) for a list of COVID-19 vaccines authorized by Health Canada.
after their second dose (if aged 18 or older) or 6 months after their second
dose (if aged 12 to 17) to be up to date with their COVID-19 vaccines.

People who received three doses (any combination of HC authorized, and non-
HC authorized) are recommended to receive a booster (fourth) dose to be up to
date with their COVID-19 vaccines.

**People Who Have Had COVID-19**

People who have had COVID-19 should complete the above vaccination
schedule to be up to date; however, they may wait to get their next dose for up
to 1 to 6 months after having COVID-19 (optimal timing can be discussed with a
health care provider and depends on age, number of doses received and health
status).