

Ministry of Health

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

Version 2.0- May 2nd, 2022 (amended May 24th, 2022)

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 (usually referring to a complete primary series) 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 person's age, health status, and which vaccines they have received.

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.

Booster doses of COVID-19 vaccine are not currently recommended for this age group.

People Aged 12-59 Years Old

People aged 12-59 years old are recommended to receive a booster dose to be up to date with their COVID-19 vaccines.¹

The booster dose is recommended ≥ 6 months after the last dose of their primary COVID-19 vaccine series (if 12-17 years old) or ≥ 3 months after the last dose of their primary COVID-19 vaccine series (if 18-59 years old).

People Aged 60 Years and Older

People aged 60 years and older are recommended to receive two booster doses to be up to date with their COVID-19 vaccines.

The first booster dose is recommended ≥ 3 months after the last dose of their primary COVID-19 vaccine series. The second booster dose is recommended ≥ 5 months after the first booster dose.

Residents of Long-Term Care Homes, Retirement Homes, Elder Care Lodges and Older Adults Living in other Congregate Settings

Residents of Long-Term Care Homes, Retirement Homes, Elder Care Lodges and older adults living in other congregate settings are recommended to receive two booster doses to be up to date with their COVID-19 vaccines.

The first booster dose is recommended ≥ 3 months after the last dose of their primary COVID-19 vaccine series. The second booster dose is recommended ≥ 3 months after the first booster dose.

¹ First Nation, Inuit and Métis individuals, and their non-Indigenous household members, 18 years of age and older may also be offered a second booster dose. Whether or not booster dose vaccine programs are needed in Indigenous communities should be determined by First Nation, Inuit and Métis leadership and their communities, and with the support of public health partners in accordance with the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

People who 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.

After completion of a 3-dose primary series, moderately or severely immunocompromised people should follow the relevant first and second (if eligible) booster dose recommendations above, based on age, to be up to date with their COVID-19 vaccines.

People Who Received Vaccines Not Authorized by Health Canada²

People who received only **one or two doses of a non-Health Canada** (HC) authorized COVID-19 vaccine may receive one additional dose in Ontario at least 28 days after the previous dose to complete the primary series.

People who received **one HC authorized vaccine and one non-HC authorized** vaccine (in either order) need no additional doses to complete the primary series.

People who received **three doses** (any combination of HC authorized, and non-HC authorized) need no additional doses to complete the primary series.

Following any additional doses needed to complete the primary series, these individuals should follow the relevant age-based booster dose recommendations, as outlined on page 2, to be up to date with their COVID-19 vaccines.

People Who Have Had COVID-19

People who have had COVID-19 infection should receive the recommended number of doses as outlined above. However, they are recommended to wait 4 to 8 weeks after having COVID-19 to get the next dose in their primary series. People who get COVID-19 after a complete primary series are recommended to wait 3 months after having COVID-19 to get their booster dose. Optimal timing can be discussed with a health care provider and depends on age, number of doses received, risk of exposure and health status.

² See [Health Canada's website](#) for a list of COVID-19 vaccines authorized by Health Canada.

Table 1: COVID-19 immunization series for individuals ≥5 years of age

Age	Recommended Intervals	Minimum Intervals
5 to 11 years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1st dose • 2nd dose, 8 weeks after 1st dose 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1st dose • 2nd dose, 21 days after 1st dose
12 to 17 years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1st dose • 2nd dose, 8 weeks after 1st dose • Booster dose, 6 months after 2nd dose 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1st dose • 2nd dose, 21 days after 1st dose • Booster dose, 3 months after 2nd dose
18-59 years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1st dose • 2nd dose, 8 weeks after 1st dose • Booster dose, 3 months after 2nd dose 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1st dose • 2nd dose, 21 days (Pfizer-BioNTech) or 28 days (Moderna) after 1st dose • Booster dose, 3 months after 2nd dose
60+ years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1st dose • 2nd dose, 8 weeks after 1st dose • Booster dose, 3 months after 2nd dose • Second booster dose, 5 months after previous booster dose 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1st dose • 2nd dose, 21 days (Pfizer-BioNTech) or 28 days (Moderna) after 1st dose • Booster dose, 3 months after 2nd dose • Second booster dose, 3 months after previous booster dose
Moderately or severely immuno-compromised individuals ≥5 years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1st dose • 2nd dose, 8 weeks after 1st dose • 3rd dose, 2 months after 2nd dose • Booster dose, (if 12-17) 6 months or (if 18+) 3 months after 3rd dose • Second booster dose, (if 60+ or other eligible group) 5 months after previous booster dose 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1st dose • 2nd dose, 21 days (Pfizer-BioNTech) or 28 days (Moderna) after 1st dose • 3rd dose, 28 days after 2nd dose • Booster dose, (if 12+) 3 months after 3rd dose • Second booster dose, (if 60+ or other eligible group) 3 months after previous booster dose