

When should I get vaccinated if I've had COVID-19?

COVID-19 vaccination is recommended to protect individuals from the severe outcomes of the virus, including for people previously infected with COVID-19. While infection alone provides some protection, vaccination after infection helps improve the immune response and may provide better and longer-lasting protection against COVID-19 and its variants.



When should I get vaccinated?

When you should get your next dose of vaccine depends on when you had COVID-19:



If you are six months of age and older and had COVID-19 **before** starting or completing your primary COVID-19 vaccine series*

Get your next dose:

- eight weeks after your COVID-19 symptoms started; or
- eight weeks after you tested positive if you did not experience symptoms.

If you are moderately to severely immunocompromised, it is recommended to get your dose four to eight weeks after your COVID-19 symptoms started or after you tested positive if you did not experience symptoms.

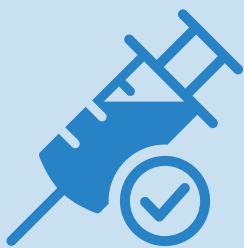
If you are 5+ and had COVID-19 **after** completing your primary COVID-19 vaccine series and before getting a booster dose*

Get your next dose:

- three months after symptoms started; or
- three months after you tested positive if you did not experience symptoms.

If you are 5 to 17 years of age, this must be at least six months after completing your primary series.

*For most people in Canada, a “complete primary series” is two doses of either Pfizer, Moderna, AstraZeneca or Novavax vaccine. Some individuals, including those who are immunocompromised, require three doses of COVID-19 vaccine.



The intervals recommended above may result in a better immune response and longer-lasting protection against COVID-19 and its variants, compared to a shorter interval between infection and vaccination. However, with informed consent, you may receive the COVID-19 vaccine once you are feeling well (have no COVID-19 symptoms) and have completed your required self-isolation period. **All post-COVID-19 infection vaccinations must follow the minimum dose interval suggested for your age and eligibility category.**

The National Advisory Committee on Immunization (NACI) provides additional recommendations for individuals who are moderately to severely immunocompromised, or who have experienced multisystem inflammatory syndrome (MIS). Visit [halton.ca/COVIDvaccines](https://www.halton.ca/COVIDvaccines) to learn more.

What else do I need to know?

- It is safe to get the COVID-19 vaccine if you have previously been infected by COVID-19.
- Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC) and NACI recommends that individuals with previous infection should get all recommended doses of COVID-19 vaccine.
- A previous infection with COVID-19 means that you either:
 - tested positive with COVID-19 through a molecular (for example, PCR) or rapid antigen test; or
 - were symptomatic AND were a household contact of a confirmed case.
- Current evidence suggests that mild side effects following vaccination may be slightly increased in people who have been previously infected compared to people who have not.
- The short- and long-term risks associated with COVID-19 infection are greater than any risks associated with COVID-19 vaccination.
- Guidance on suggested intervals between infection and vaccination may change as additional evidence emerges.



Get the COVID-19 vaccine at the recommended interval if you are currently eligible to receive an additional dose. Vaccination is one of the best ways to protect yourself and your community against severe outcomes from COVID-19.

Where can I find more information?

If you are concerned about getting the vaccine or have questions about when to get the vaccine, talk with your health care provider. For more information about COVID-19 vaccines and to find trusted resources, visit halton.ca/COVIDvaccines.

