

## COVID-19 VACCINE UPDATE 60 FROM HALTON REGION PUBLIC HEALTH

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TO: Halton Physicians, Nurse Practitioners, Emergency Departments, other Healthcare Providers

FROM: Dr. Joanna Oda, Associate Medical Officer of Health

DATE: August 18, 2021

RE: COVID-19 Vaccine Update 60: youth vaccination eligibility change, third doses, mandatory vaccination policies, upcoming webinar

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### QUICK FACTS

- The Government of Ontario issued a [press release](#) yesterday with the following changes:
  - All children born in 2009 or later are now eligible to receive the Pfizer vaccine, regardless of whether their 12<sup>th</sup> birthday has passed yet.
  - Third vaccine doses will now be offered to certain groups of patients at higher risk of severe outcomes (see below).
  - Mandatory vaccination policies will now be required for hospitals, home and community care service providers, and ambulance services.
- You're invited to a [Health Care Professional Town Hall \(Back to school with COVID-19\)](#) hosted by Halton Region Public Health on Thursday, September 2 from 5-6 p.m. to learn about COVID-19 updates impacting your practice and your patients. [Please submit your questions when registering.](#)

### EXPANDED VACCINE ELIGIBILITY FOR CHILDREN

- As of Wednesday, August 18, children born in 2009 can receive the Pfizer vaccine prior to their 12<sup>th</sup> birthday at any Public Health Clinic providing Pfizer on a walk-in basis, at participating primary care clinics and pharmacies.
- If you would like to register your clinic to provide the COVID-19 vaccine, please email [doctors@halton.ca](mailto:doctors@halton.ca).
- The decision was based on several months of data from Alberta and BC where this policy has been in place and no safety concerns have been identified.
- Anticipated surge in demand may result in temporary line ups, so residents are encouraged to dress appropriately for the weather and bring water to stay hydrated.

### THIRD DOSES

- **Third doses are not yet available at Halton Region Public Health Clinics.** Public Health is working to implement this direction as soon as possible and will update you once available.
- [Third COVID-19 vaccine doses will be offered](#) to certain high risk groups to provide additional protection:

Please report all suspected/confirmed cases of [Diseases of Public Health Significance](#) to Public Health immediately by calling 311, 905-825-6000 or toll free at 1-866-442-5866.

PLEASE PROVIDE A COPY TO ALL PHYSICIANS IN YOUR OFFICE AND/OR POST IN EMERGENCY DEPARTMENTS AND PHYSICIAN LOUNGES. IF YOU HAVE ANY ISSUES WITH THIS ATTACHMENT, PLEASE EMAIL [DOCTORS@HALTON.CA](mailto:DOCTORS@HALTON.CA).

- Transplant recipients (including solid organ transplant and hematopoietic stem cell transplants);
  - Patients with hematological cancers (examples include lymphoma, myeloma, leukemia) on active treatment (chemotherapy, targeted therapies, immunotherapy);
  - Recipients of an anti-CD20 agent (e.g. rituximab, ocrelizumab, ofatumumab); and
  - Residents of high-risk congregate settings including long-term care homes, higher-risk licensed retirement homes and First Nations elder care lodges.
- For transplant recipients, patients with hematological cancers, and recipients of an anti-CD20 agent, there is a minimum 8-week interval between the second dose and the third dose.
  - For residents of long-term care homes and high risk retirement homes, there is a minimum 5 month delay after the second dose.
  - The [FDA](#) and [CDC's](#) Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) recently authorized a third dose for similar indications. A NACI statement regarding third doses is expected in September.

### **MANDATORY VACCINATION POLICIES**

- The Chief Medical Officer of Health has issued a directive requiring all public hospitals, home and community care providers, and ambulance services to have a vaccination policy, which will require proof of one of the following:
  - Full vaccination against COVID-19;
  - A medical reason for not being vaccinated against COVID-19; or
  - Completion of a COVID-19 vaccination educational session.
- Those who do not provide proof of vaccination will be required to undertake regular antigen testing.
- The policy must be effective by September 7, 2021.