

COVID-19 VACCINE UPDATE #99 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: December 13, 2022

RE: COVID-19 Vaccine Update 99: Bivalent vaccine available for 5-11 y.o.; concurrent administration; order by Friday to receive by Dec 22

QUICK FACTS

- [Health Canada has approved the Pfizer-BioNTech bivalent COVID-19 booster for children aged 5-11](#) that protects against both the original COVID virus and the Omicron BA.4 and BA.5 subvariants.
- The Pfizer bivalent COVID-19 vaccine will be available at Halton region community vaccination clinics beginning the week of December 19, 2022. Appointments can be booked [online](#).
- To receive COVID-19 vaccine, including the newest bivalent booster, before the [holiday closure](#), primary care and pediatricians must order their vaccines by Friday, December 16.
- COVID-19 vaccine orders placed by December 16 will be delivered on Thursday, December 22. Orders placed after December 16 will be delivered on January 5, 2023.
- Boosters are recommended to be given six months after a previous COVID-19 vaccine or a COVID-19 infection, but can be administered at a minimum three-month interval.
- [NACI recommends only one booster dose after the primary series for children 5 to 11, however, at the discretion of a healthcare provider, a bivalent booster dose could be offered](#) at the recommended interval to children considered at high risk of severe COVID-19 who have previously received a booster dose.
- The Pfizer bivalent COVID-19 vaccine is only offered as a booster dose. Monovalent COVID-19 vaccines are recommended for people who have not yet completed their primary series.
- NACI has also updated their recommendations regarding co-administration and now recommend COVID-19 vaccines be given concurrently with, or any time before or after, non-COVID-19 vaccines (including live and non-live vaccines) for people 6 months of age and older.

HOW TO OFFER COVID-19 VACCINE IN YOUR PRACTICE

- Protect your eligible staff and patients by providing an easy option for COVID-19 vaccination. Visit the [onboarding webpage](#) or email pharmacists@halton.ca with any questions.
- Email your completed [clinic readiness checklist](#) and [Memorandum of Understanding](#) to pharmacists@halton.ca.
- Complete the [OntarioMD COVax Training](#) and attend a Halton online onboarding session.
- Receive your COVax accounts and vaccine event information.
- Order COVID-19 vaccine [online](#). You can order as little as one vial at a time.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- [Increasing Booster Uptake: Getting a Person from No to Yes](#), MDBriefCase
- [Updated recommendations on the use of COVID-19 vaccine booster doses in children 5-11 years of age and concurrent vaccine administration](#), NACI

Please report all suspected/confirmed cases of [Diseases of Public Health Significance](#) (only report COVID-19 cases occurring in high-risk settings) 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.

- [Sick Kid's COVID-19 Vaccine Consult Service](#) – 1-888-304-6558
- [COVID-19 Vaccine Relevant Information](#), Ministry of Health