

HALTON REGION PUBLIC HEALTH • Office of the Medical Officer of 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 30, 2024

RE: Market Withdrawal of COVID-19 XBB Vaccines and Vaccine Distribution in Early October

QUICK FACTS

- The Public Health Agency of Canada has issued a market withdrawal of all COVID-19 XBB vaccines. As of September 1, 2024, any remaining XBB vaccines in your vaccine fridge must be disposed of.
- The new KP.2 COVID-19 vaccine formulations are expected to be available in October, pending Health Canada authorization and delivery schedules from manufacturers.
- In early October, vaccine orders will be **paused for 2 weeks** to accommodate the influenza auto-shipment schedule. During this time, routine vaccine orders will not be processed. Orders for high-risk vaccines will be approved on a case-by-case basis.

KEY MESSAGES FOR HEALTHCARE PROVIDERS

COVID-19 XBB Vaccine Market Withdrawal

- Effective September 1, 2024, the Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC) has issued a market withdrawal of all COVID-19 XBB vaccines. This is in preparation for the approval of the new KP.2 formulations from Pfizer and Moderna for the fall 2024 respiratory illness campaign.
- As part of the authorization of the new formulations, Health Canada will remove strain identifiers (e.g., XBB/KP.2), allowing for a single drug identification number (DIN) per vaccine presentation.
- Due to this market withdrawal, as of September 1, 2024, all XBB vaccines at your facility must be disposed of.
- COVID-19 vaccines must be physically disposed of in your facility's biomedical waste container. Do not return COVID-19 vaccines to Public Health.
- Ensure that all doses administered have been documented in COVaxON. Enter any doses remaining in your inventory as waste.
 - Wastage of **viable** vaccine doses - i.e., not yet expired, before beyond-use-date (BUD) - should be recorded using the wastage reason of "**Other**" accompanied with the following note: "**Doses wasted due to PHAC market withdrawal of all XBB vaccine products**".
- As a result of this market withdrawal, COVID-19 vaccines will not be available until the new formulation of KP.2 vaccines are approved and distributed. Advise individuals that are seeking COVID-19 vaccination to wait for the new formulations. These vaccines are expected to be available in October and offer better protection against circulating COVID-19 strains.

Fall Influenza Vaccination Campaign

- Starting in early October, influenza auto-shipments will be sent to your facility via Halton’s vaccine courier service. The auto-shipment schedule will be shared at the end of September. Your facility will not be charged for auto-shipped influenza vaccine deliveries.
- The following table outlines the adjusted vaccine distribution schedule. Orders placed after the ‘order by date’ will not be processed until the ‘next order by date’.

Municipality	Order by	Delivery Date	Pick-up Date	NOTICE	Next Order by Date	Next Delivery Date	Next Pick-Up Date
Burlington	Sep 25	Oct 1	Oct 1/2	No Delivery / Pick-Up Oct 15 & 16	Oct 23	Oct 29	Oct 29/30
Oakville	Sep 25	Oct 2	Oct 1/2	No Delivery / Pick-Up Oct 15 & 16	Oct 23	Oct 30	Oct 29/30
Milton and Halton Hills	Sep 18	Sep 24	Sep 24/25	No Delivery / Pick-Up Oct 8 & 9	Oct 16	Oct 22	Oct 22/23

- Please review your vaccine inventory to ensure you have enough supply to accommodate the adjusted distribution schedule and that your fridge space is sufficient.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- Halton Region Public Health’s [Vaccine Distribution Schedule](#)

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.