

COVID-19 VACCINE UPDATE #72 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: November 3, 2021

RE: COVID-19 Vaccine Update 72: COVID-19 vaccine guidance re 3rd doses for 70+, indigenous & HCW; how to onboard to provide 3rd doses; COVID-19 testing locations

QUICK FACTS

- Starting November 6, the following [vulnerable populations will be eligible for a booster dose of the COVID-19 vaccine](#), if at least six months have passed since their last dose:
 - Individuals aged 70 and over (born in 1951 or earlier);
 - Health care workers and any staff member working in-person in a health care organization, including workers not providing direct patient care but frequently in the patient environment;
 - Designated essential caregivers in congregate settings (including long-term care home and retirement home staff and designated caregivers);
 - Individuals who received a complete series of a viral vector vaccine (two doses of the AstraZeneca vaccine or one dose of the Janssen vaccine); and
 - First Nation, Inuit and Metis adults and their non-Indigenous household members.
- COVID-19 vaccine can be administered at the same time as influenza and other vaccines.
- Appointments will be required for all first, second and third doses and walk-ins will no longer be offered at Halton Region Community COVID-19 vaccination clinics after Friday, November 5.
- Starting Saturday, November 6, eligible individuals can book appointments at a Halton Region Community COVID-19 Vaccination Clinic at halton.ca/covidvaccines. Clinics are located at FirstOntario Arts Centre (Milton), YMCA (Oakville), Gary Allan Learning Centre (Burlington) and Gellert Community Centre (Halton Hills).
- COVID-19 vaccine is also available at more than 100 pharmacies across Halton Region, participating physician offices and pop-up clinics.
- People are reminded that those who have received two doses of COVID-19 vaccine still have excellent protection against the virus. There is currently no evidence of widespread waning of protection against severe disease in the general Canadian population who have been fully vaccinated.
- However, lower vaccine effectiveness against severe disease has been identified mainly in residents in long-term care homes, with some evidence of decreased effectiveness in elderly adults, particularly those 80 years of age and over.
- Ensure your eligible healthcare staff and patients are able to get vaccinated promptly by [signing up today to offer COVID-19 in your office](#).

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.

COVID-19 BOOSTER DOSE RECOMMENDATIONS

- Either Moderna or Pfizer vaccines may be used as a third or booster dose (regardless of which COVID-19 vaccine was used in the primary series)
- Residents of long-term care homes, retirement homes or seniors in congregate living settings, adults 70 years of age+ and all eligible immunocompromised individuals are recommended to receive the full dose (100 mcg) if being offered Moderna for a third or booster dose.
- For all other individuals less than 70 years of age, if offering Moderna as a booster dose, a half dose (50 mcg) is recommended.
- If offering Pfizer-BioNTech for a third or booster dose, the full dose (30 mcg) is recommended for all individuals.
- Individuals that received AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine for their first **and** second dose are recommended to receive an mRNA vaccine for their third or booster dose unless contraindicated.
- People who received one dose of AstraZeneca followed by an mRNA vaccine are not eligible for a third dose at this time.
- A booster dose of a viral vector vaccine should only be considered when an mRNA vaccine is contraindicated or inaccessible.

HOW TO OFFER COVID-19 VACCINE IN YOUR PRACTICE

- Help protect your eligible staff and patients by providing an easy option for COVID-19 vaccination booster doses. Visit [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.

COVID-19 TESTING SITES IN HALTON

- Burlington – Joseph Brant Hospital COVID-19 Assessment Centre. Book [online](#) or call 905-632-3737, ext. 6550
- Milton – new testing site at Milton District Hospital. Book appointment online at fhhealth.com/pho. Walk-ins only accepted based on availability.
- Oakville – new testing site at Kinoak Arena. Book appointment online at drivercheck.ca/ontariohealth
- Oakville – Halton Healthcare Assessment & Testing Centre at Oakville Trafalgar Memorial Hospital. Book [online](#) or by calling 905-203-7963
- Georgetown – Halton Healthcare Assessment & Testing Centre at Georgetown Hospital. Book [online](#) or by calling 905-203-7963

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- [COVID-19 Vaccine Third Dose Recommendations](#), Ministry of Health
- [Summary of NACI statement of October 29, 2021](#) –Public Health Agency of Canada
- [Onboard your primary care practice to provide COVID-19 vaccine](#), Halton Region Public Health