

# Staying Up to Date with COVID-19 Vaccines: Recommended Doses

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This guidance provides basic information only. This document is not intended to provide or take the place of medical advice, diagnosis or treatment, or legal advice. In the event of any conflict between this guidance document and any applicable legislation, orders or directives issued by the Minister of Health, Minister of Long-Term Care, or the Chief Medical Officer of Health (CMOH), the legislation, order or directive prevails.

## Get Vaccinated and Stay Up to Date

- **Up to date** means a person has received all recommended COVID-19 vaccine doses, including any booster dose(s) when eligible.

Protection after a primary COVID-19 vaccine series decreases over time, especially against the Omicron variant of concern. COVID-19 vaccine booster doses help to increase protection against symptomatic infection and severe outcomes at the individual level and helps to reduce transmission at the population level.

What is considered to be up to date for COVID-19 vaccines will likely need to be modified over time based on availability of new vaccines in the future, potential changes in disease epidemiology and as new evidence on additional booster doses becomes available.

The '[fully vaccinated](#)' definition (usually referring to a complete primary series) may continue to be used in some settings, and relevant policies, legislation, directives or orders must continue to be followed where applicable.

## When Are You Up to Date with Your COVID-19 Vaccines?

People are up to date with their COVID-19 vaccines when they have followed the recommendations listed below and in Table 1. The recommendations will be different depending on the person's age, health status, and which vaccines they have received.

## **Children Aged 5 to 11 Years Old**

Children aged 5 to 11 years old are recommended to receive a primary COVID-19 vaccine series to be up to date with their COVID-19 vaccines.

Booster doses of COVID-19 vaccine are not currently recommended for this age group.

## **People Aged 12-59 Years Old**

People aged 12-59 years old are recommended to receive a booster dose to be up to date with their COVID-19 vaccines.

The booster dose is recommended  $\geq 6$  months after the last dose of their primary COVID-19 vaccine series (if 12-17 years old) or  $\geq 3$  months after the last dose of their primary COVID-19 vaccine series (if 18-59 years old).

## **People Aged 60 Years and Older**

People aged 60 years and older are recommended to receive two booster doses to be up to date with their COVID-19 vaccines.

The first booster dose is recommended  $\geq 3$  months after the last dose of their primary COVID-19 vaccine series. The second booster dose is recommended  $\geq 5$  months after the first booster dose.

## **Residents of Long-Term Care Homes, Retirement Homes, Elder Care Lodges and Older Adults Living in other Congregate Settings**

Residents of Long-Term Care Homes, Retirement Homes, Elder Care Lodges and older adults living in other congregate settings are recommended to receive two booster doses to be up to date with their COVID-19 vaccines.

The first booster dose is recommended  $\geq 3$  months after the last dose of their primary COVID-19 vaccine series. The second booster dose is recommended  $\geq 3$  months after the first booster dose.

## **People who are Moderately or Severely Immunocompromised**

Moderately or severely immunocompromised people aged 5 and older are recommended to receive a 3-dose primary COVID-19 vaccine series.

After completion of a 3-dose primary series, moderately or severely immunocompromised people should follow the relevant first and second (if

eligible) booster dose recommendations above, based on age, to be up to date with their COVID-19 vaccines.

### **People Who Received Vaccines Not Authorized by Health Canada<sup>1</sup>**

People who received only **one or two doses of a non-Health Canada** (HC) authorized COVID-19 vaccine may receive one additional dose in Ontario at least 28 days after the previous dose to complete the primary series.

People who received **one HC authorized vaccine and one non-HC authorized** vaccine (in either order) need no additional doses to complete the primary series.

People who received **three doses** (any combination of HC authorized, and non-HC authorized) need no additional doses to complete the primary series.

Following any additional doses needed to complete the primary series, these individuals should follow the relevant age-based booster dose recommendations, as outlined on page 2, to be up to date with their COVID-19 vaccines.

### **People Who Have Had COVID-19**

People who have had COVID-19 infection should receive the recommended number of doses as outlined above. However, they are recommended to wait 4 to 8 weeks after having COVID-19 to get the next dose in their primary series. People who get COVID-19 after a complete primary series are recommended to wait 3 months after having COVID-19 to get their booster dose. Optimal timing can be discussed with a health care provider and depends on age, number of doses received, risk of exposure and health status.

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<sup>1</sup> See Health Canada's [website](#) for a list of COVID-19 vaccines authorized by Health Canada.

**Table 1: COVID-19 immunization series for individuals ≥5 years of age**

Age	Recommended Intervals	Minimum Intervals
5 to 11 years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1<sup>st</sup> dose</li> <li>• 2<sup>nd</sup> dose, 8 weeks after 1<sup>st</sup> dose</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1<sup>st</sup> dose</li> <li>• 2<sup>nd</sup> dose, 21 days after 1<sup>st</sup> dose</li> </ul>
12 to 17 years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1<sup>st</sup> dose</li> <li>• 2<sup>nd</sup> dose, 8 weeks after 1<sup>st</sup> dose</li> <li>• Booster dose, 6 months after 2<sup>nd</sup> dose</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1<sup>st</sup> dose</li> <li>• 2<sup>nd</sup> dose, 21 days after 1<sup>st</sup> dose</li> <li>• Booster dose, 3 months after 2<sup>nd</sup> dose</li> </ul>
18-59 years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1<sup>st</sup> dose</li> <li>• 2<sup>nd</sup> dose, 8 weeks after 1<sup>st</sup> dose</li> <li>• Booster dose, 3 months after 2<sup>nd</sup> dose</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1<sup>st</sup> dose</li> <li>• 2<sup>nd</sup> dose, 21 days (Pfizer-BioNTech) or 28 days (Moderna) after 1<sup>st</sup> dose</li> <li>• Booster dose, 3 months after 2<sup>nd</sup> dose</li> </ul>
60+ years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1<sup>st</sup> dose</li> <li>• 2<sup>nd</sup> dose, 8 weeks after 1<sup>st</sup> dose</li> <li>• Booster dose, 3 months after 2<sup>nd</sup> dose</li> <li>• Second booster dose, 5 months after previous booster dose</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1<sup>st</sup> dose</li> <li>• 2<sup>nd</sup> dose, 21 days (Pfizer-BioNTech) or 28 days (Moderna) after 1<sup>st</sup> dose</li> <li>• Booster dose, 3 months after 2<sup>nd</sup> dose</li> <li>• Second booster dose, 3 months after previous booster dose</li> </ul>
<a href="#">Moderately or severely immuno-compromised</a> individuals ≥5 years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1<sup>st</sup> dose</li> <li>• 2<sup>nd</sup> dose, 8 weeks after 1<sup>st</sup> dose</li> <li>• 3<sup>rd</sup> dose, 2 months after 2<sup>nd</sup> dose</li> <li>• Booster dose, (if 12-17) 6 months or (if 18+) 3 months after 3<sup>rd</sup> dose</li> <li>• Second booster dose, (if 60+ or other eligible group) 5 months after previous booster dose</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1<sup>st</sup> dose</li> <li>• 2<sup>nd</sup> dose, 21 days (Pfizer-BioNTech) or 28 days (Moderna) after 1<sup>st</sup> dose</li> <li>• 3<sup>rd</sup> dose, 28 days after 2<sup>nd</sup> dose</li> <li>• Booster dose, (if 12+) 3 months after 3<sup>rd</sup> dose</li> <li>• Second booster dose, (if 60+ or other eligible group) 3 months after previous booster dose</li> </ul>