



Durham Region Health Department FAX about...

For Health Care Professionals



COVID-19 Vaccine: expanded eligibility, revised intervals, and referral requirements

Third Dose Interval

In accordance with Ministry of Health guidelines, the following populations are eligible to receive their **third doses** at a shortened interval of **84 days** (3 months) after their second dose:

- Individuals 50 years of age or older (born in 1971 or earlier)
- Health care workers and medical first responders (must be 16 years of age or older)
- First Nation, Inuit and Métis adults, including non-Indigenous household members (must be 16 years of age or older)
- Recipients of viral vector vaccine or series
- Vulnerable older adults in congregate settings

Third Dose Eligibility Expansion

Beginning December 20, 2021, adults aged **18 years and older** are eligible to receive a third dose of COVID-19 vaccine at an interval of at least **84 days** (3 months) after their second dose.

Recommended Third Dose Vaccine Product

Either Pfizer or Moderna mRNA vaccines may be used as a third dose, regardless of which COVID-19 vaccine was used in the primary series. However, **Pfizer** is recommended for individuals **18 to 29 years** old due to lower reported rates of myocarditis/pericarditis following vaccination with Pfizer compared to Moderna.

Moderately to Severely Immunocompromised Individuals

A referral to Lakeridge Health is **no longer indicated** for this population as they are now able to **verbally attest** to meeting the criteria. A third dose of an mRNA COVID-19 vaccine will be offered to these individuals with the vaccine product authorized for their age group, to complete their primary COVID-19 vaccine series. Different from other populations eligible for third doses, their interval remains at **56 days** (8 weeks) between first, second and third doses. Furthermore, these individuals may receive a **booster dose** (i.e., fourth dose) at a minimum of 84 days (three months) after completion of the three-dose primary series.

For additional information: Ministry of Health COVID-19 Vaccine [Third Dose Recommendations](#)

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905-668-2020 or 1-800-841-2729 | durham.ca/health

If you require this information in an accessible format, contact 1-800-841-2729.

