



Durham Region Health Department FAX about...

For Health Care Professionals



COVID-19 Vaccine Eligibility and Interval Updates

Expanded Third (i.e., Booster) Dose Eligibility

On February 17, 2022, the Ministry of Health expanded booster (i.e., third) mRNA COVID-19 vaccine dose eligibility indicating:

Individuals in Ontario aged 12-17 years of age are eligible to receive booster doses of an mRNA vaccine ≥ 6 months (168 days) after completion of a primary COVID-19 vaccine series. This interval may be associated with a lower risk of myocarditis with or without pericarditis. With informed consent, individuals 12-17 years of age may receive a booster dose at a minimum of 3 months (84 days) after completion of a primary COVID-19 vaccine series.

Expanded Fourth (i.e., Booster) Dose Eligibility

Moderately to severely immunocompromised individuals (12 years of age and older) who are eligible for a three-dose primary series are recommended to receive a booster dose (i.e., 4th dose) ≥ 6 months (168 days) after completion of the extended primary series or at an interval recommended by their provider.

- Individuals (12 years of age and older) who were receiving active treatment necessitating a three dose primary series, are eligible for a booster dose, even if not receiving active treatment currently.

Booster doses (i.e., 4th dose) are not currently recommended for moderately to severely immunocompromised individuals under the age of 12.

COVID-19 Vaccination Following SARS-CoV-2 Infection

Individuals 5 years of age and older (who are not considered moderately to severely immunocompromised and with no previous history of multisystem inflammatory syndrome in children [MIS-C]) infected prior to completion or initiation of their primary vaccine series, are recommended to receive the vaccine 8 weeks after symptom onset or positive test (if asymptomatic).

Individuals 5 years of age and older who are moderately to severely immunocompromised (with no previous history of MIS-C) infected prior to completion or initiation of their primary vaccine series, are recommended to receive the vaccine dose 4 to 8 weeks after symptom onset or positive test (if asymptomatic).

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Individuals 5 years of age and older with a previous history of MIS-C (regardless of immunocompromised status), infected prior to completion or initiation of their primary vaccine series, are recommended to receive the vaccine dose when clinical recovery has been achieved or at least 90 days since the onset of MIS-C, whichever is longer.

COVID-19 Booster Vaccination Following SARS-CoV-2 Infection

Individuals 18 years of age and older, infected with SARS-CoV-2 after their primary series but before their booster dose, are recommended to receive their booster dose 3 months after symptom onset or positive test (if asymptomatic).

Individuals 12 to 17 years old, infected with SARS-CoV-2 after their primary series but before their booster dose, are recommended to receive their booster dose 3 months after symptom onset or positive test (if asymptomatic) AND at least 6 months from completing the primary series.

With informed consent, individuals may receive a booster dose once they are asymptomatic and have completed their isolation.

As per NACI, emerging evidence indicates that a longer interval between SARS-CoV-2 infection and vaccination is associated with improved antibody responses to COVID-19 vaccines. A previous infection with SARS-CoV-2 is defined as a COVID-19 case confirmed by a molecular (e.g., PCR) or rapid antigen test, or [symptomatic](#)¹ AND a household contact of a confirmed COVID-19 case. (¹see Ministry of Health's COVID-19 Reference Document for Symptoms, version 9.0, January 4, 2022)

Deferral/Interval following Myocarditis/Pericarditis

In most circumstances, and as a precautionary measure until more information is available, further doses of mRNA COVID-19 vaccines should be deferred among people who experienced myocarditis (with or without pericarditis) within 6 weeks of receiving a previous dose of an mRNA COVID-19 vaccine. This includes any person who had an abnormal cardiac investigation including electrocardiogram (ECG), elevated troponins, echocardiogram or cardiac MRI after a dose of an mRNA vaccine. Those with a history compatible with pericarditis and who either had no cardiac workup or had normal cardiac investigations, can receive the next dose once they are symptom free and at least 90 days has passed since vaccination.

Additional information is available via [Ministry of Health COVID-19 Third Dose Recommendations](#).

February 18, 2022

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