



COVID-19 Vaccine Updates

On July 7, 2023, the Ontario Ministry of Health released updated COVID-19 vaccine guidance.

Primary series

Individuals **6 months and older are recommended to receive an Omicron-containing bivalent COVID-19 vaccine to initiate or complete their primary series.** The use of the bivalent Omicron-containing products for the primary series is recommended by the Ontario Ministry of Health based on guidance from the National Advisory Committee for Immunization.

Moderna Spikevax® Bivalent COVID-19 vaccine (Original/Omicron BA.4/5) can be used for the primary series in individuals **6 months of age and older.**

Pfizer-BioNTech Comirnaty® Bivalent COVID-19 vaccine (Original and Omicron BA.4/5) can be used for the primary series in individuals **5 years and older.**

Booster doses

Individuals 5 years and older are recommended to consider **delaying a COVID-19 booster dose until the fall of 2023** to maximize protection when peak circulation of the virus is expected.

The recommended interval for COVID-19 booster doses continues to be **6-months (168 day) from last dose or confirmed COVID-19 infection.** Evidence shows a longer interval from previous dose or infection results in higher antibody response.

A shorter interval from last dose or prior infection may be considered for individuals 12 years and older based on biological and social factors that increase risk of exposure or severe disease. The minimum interval for a bivalent Pfizer-BioNTech booster dose is 3 months (84 days). The minimum interval for a bivalent Moderna booster dose is 4 months (112 days).

The use of Bivalent Moderna BA.4/5, has been expanded to include a booster dose for individuals 6 to 17 years of age.

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Product recall

There has been a voluntary recall of Janssen (JCOVDEN) COVID-19 vaccine in Canada in response to market-based decisions by the manufacturer. The withdrawal is not due to any health or safety concerns. **The Ontario Ministry of Health has requested the administration of the Janssen Jcovden® COVID-19 vaccine be discontinued immediately**

More information

Individuals may receive COVID-19 vaccination at select pharmacy locations. For a list visit <https://www.durham.ca/en/health-and-wellness/covid-19-vaccines.aspx#Pharmacies> or individuals can book an appointment at Durham Region Health Department community immunization clinics by visiting www.durham.ca/vaccineappointment or by calling the appointment booking line 1-888-444-5113.

Further information about COVID-19 vaccines is available at www.durham.ca/covidvaccines and through the Ministry of Health's [COVID-19 Vaccine Guidance Document](#).

July 17, 2023

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.

