

## Durham Region Health Department **FAX about...**



For Health Care Professionals

## COVID-19 Vaccine Spring 2025 Recommendations & RSV Update

The 2024/2025 COVID-19 vaccine program will become an annual program aligning with the Universal Influenza Immunization Program (UIIP). The annual program will occur over a 12-month period starting in September and ending in August. This spring, an additional dose of COVID-19 vaccine is recommended for previously vaccinated individuals who have completed their primary series and are at increased risk of SARS-CoV-2 infection, including:

- Adults 65 years of age and older
  - o Individuals 80 years and older **should** receive an additional dose
  - o Individuals 65 to 79 years **may** receive an additional dose of vaccine
- Adult residents of long-term care homes and other congregate living settings for seniors.
- Individuals 6 months of age and older who are moderately to severely immunocompromised (due to underlying condition or treatment).
- Individuals 55 years and older who identify as First Nations, Inuit, or Metis and their non-Indigenous household members who are 55 years and older.

Eligible individuals may receive a COVID-19 vaccine at an interval of 6 months (minimum 3 months) from a previous COVID-19 vaccine dose or known SARS-CoV-2 infection (whichever is later).

Individuals who are not high-risk are **not recommended** to receive dose(s) in the spring regardless of if dose(s) were received in the fall. These individuals are recommended to be vaccinated during the next annual COVID-19 vaccine program (i.e., 2025/2026).

**Doses for high-risk populations are recommended to be received between April and June** (may continue to be received until August 31). For doses after June 30, healthcare providers should use discretion to determine the benefit of receiving dose(s) at the minimum interval versus receiving dose(s) during the next annual COVID-19 vaccine program.

Individuals eligible for a Spring COVID-19 vaccine can access the vaccine through local pharmacies. Durham Region Health Department will have limited COVID-19 vaccine appointments for high-risk children under 5 years of age if there is no local pharmacy in their community vaccinating young children.

For COVID-19 immunization schedules and more information see MOH Health Care Provider Fact Sheet: 2024/2025 COVID-19 Vaccine Program - Update and https://www.ontario.ca/page/covid-19-vaccine-program

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## **RSV Vaccine Program Updates**

The 2024-2025 high-risk older adult RSV program will continue into the spring and vaccines for eligible individuals are still available to order through the Durham Region Health Department (see <a href="durham.ca/hcp">durham.ca/hcp</a> then Forms then Order).

The infant and high-risk children RSV prevention program has ended.

- Additional doses of Beyfortus and Abrysvo should no longer be administered to infants, children, or pregnant individuals.
- To ensure protection through respiratory season, it is recommended children receive their dose of Beyfortus in the fall as the immunization offers 6 months of protection.
- All non-expired vaccine should remain in your vaccine fridge for administration next season.

