

HPMVAC Update: Dec. 6, 2021

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What's new in this update

- Third dose eligibility
- Updated recommendations for certain health conditions (see: third dose eligibility and information for healthcare providers and pharmacists)
- Janssen vaccine update

Vaccine eligibility

- Individuals 5 and older are eligible for Pfizer-BioNTech. Individuals age 18 or older are eligible for either Moderna (must be minimum 18 years or older) or Pfizer-BioNTech. Ontario has a preferential recommendation to provide Pfizer (rather than Moderna) in those aged 18 – 24 years.
- The pediatric Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine is now available in Canada for children aged 5 (or turning 5 in 2021) to 11. Visit www.hpph.ca/vaccine-kids for more information and to book an appointment.
- Certain individuals are eligible for a booster dose of vaccine if enough time has passed since their second dose, including individuals 50 years of age and older, healthcare workers, and those with specific medical conditions. Please use our third dose booking calculator to determine if you are eligible.
- A limited supply of the single dose Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 vaccine will also be available in Ontario.

- **Beginning Monday, December 13**, individuals aged 50 and over will be able to book a third dose appointment through Huron Perth Public Health vaccination clinics, select pharmacies, and primary care provider offices. **At least six months or 168 days must have passed since the second dose.**
- Effective immediately individuals receiving dialysis (hemodialysis or peritoneal dialysis) are eligible to receive a third dose of the COVID-19 vaccine if it has been **56 days** since their second dose.
- If you come to a clinic for a third dose, but are not yet eligible, you will be turned away at the clinic.
- The Johnson & Johnson vaccine will be available to individuals aged 18 and over who have an allergy or contraindication to mRNA vaccines or at the request of an individual who has not yet been vaccinated by contacting their public health unit.
 - Please note that this is not currently available at HPPH vaccination clinics. Health Units must order the vaccine ahead of time and planning in advance is required.
 - Please speak with your healthcare provider about receiving the Janssen vaccine if you have an allergy or contraindication to an mRNA vaccine, or phone our intake line at 1-888-221-2133 for further direction.

Receiving another vaccine (such as flu shot) and COVID-19 vaccine

- The [National Advisory Committee on Immunization \(NACI\)](#) recommends that **for individuals 12 years of age and older**, COVID-19 vaccines may be given at the same time as, or any time before or after, other vaccines, for example influenza, shingles or pneumococcal vaccines.
 - Flu shots are now available for all Ontarians. HPMVAC encourages residents to receive their flu shot as soon as possible. Visit www.hpph.ca/flu for more information.
- The [National Advisory Committee on Immunization \(NACI\)](#) recommends that **children aged 5-11** do not receive another vaccine 14 days before or after the pediatric Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine. This is a precaution to monitor any side effects from the COVID-19 vaccine or another vaccine.

Second doses

- Administration of second doses of mRNA vaccines (Pfizer and Moderna) are now recommended at 8 weeks after the first dose. On November 15 2021, the Ministry of Health updated the second dose interval information in their [COVID-19 Vaccine Administration guidance](#) document.
 - This recommendation includes second doses for those ages 5-11.
 - There is emerging evidence that longer intervals between the first and second doses of COVID-19 vaccines result in more robust and durable immune response and higher vaccine effectiveness and may be associated with a lower risk of myocarditis and/or pericarditis in adolescents and young adults. See [NACI's statement](#) for more information.
 - HPPH can provide a second dose at 4 weeks/product monograph for those who choose to get their second dose at 4 weeks.
 - Please note that anyone who received their second dose at the 4 week interval (or an extended interval) has good protection from COVID-19.
- It is important to get a second dose to complete your vaccine series, for optimal protection.
- HPPH does not book second dose appointments when you get your first dose.

For individuals who received AstraZeneca as first dose

- If you received AstraZeneca as your first dose, you should receive your second vaccine (AZ or an mRNA) 8 -12 weeks later for optimal immune response. Some people, in consultation with their health care provider, may need to book earlier than 8-12 weeks due to their medical treatment schedule.
- See our website for information: www.hpph.ca/vaccine

Third doses

- Two doses of the COVID-19 vaccine provides strong protection against COVID-19 including against the Delta variant. However, a third dose has been recommended for specific populations to boost protection and increase immune response.
- Those eligible for a booster dose can receive their booster dose through their primary care provider, at an HPPH clinic, or through a local participating pharmacy.
- Before booking, we ask that everyone checks their eligibility & **ensures that enough time has passed since their last dose using our [third dose calculator](#)**. If anyone comes to a clinic before enough time has passed since their second dose, they will not be able to proceed with the appointment.
- Please remember you must a) be eligible for a third dose and b) have had enough time pass since your second dose.
- The following individuals will be eligible for a booster dose **when at least six months have passed since their last dose:**
 - Individuals aged 50 and over (born in 1971 or earlier);
 - Visit www.hpph.ca/vaccinebooking to find out when you will be eligible to book.
 - Health care workers as outlined in provincial guidance.
 - Designated essential caregivers in congregate settings (including long-term care home and retirement home staff and designated caregivers);
 - Individuals who received a complete series of a viral vector vaccine (two doses of the AstraZeneca vaccine or one dose of the Janssen vaccine); and
 - First Nation, Inuit and Métis adults and their non-Indigenous household members.
- A complete list of eligibility is provided at www.hpph.ca/thirddose and in Appendix A.
- For the general population, evidence continues to show that two doses of vaccine provide strong protection against COVID-19 infection and severe outcomes, such as hospitalization, ICU admission, and death. Over time, the province is prepared to expand eligibility for booster doses to all Ontarians, based on age and risk.
- Those with specific medical conditions (see Appendix B) must check with their treating specialist, pharmacist or healthcare practitioner about their eligibility and timing for a third dose at a shortened (two-month) interval.
 - Those who are eligible due to the specified medical conditions may receive a third dose at a minimum of eight weeks after their second dose.
 - If you are eligible due to being immunocompromised, and you are coming to a HPPH clinic for a third dose, you will be asked for documentation from your healthcare provider or to attest to your medical condition and attest that you have received direction from your healthcare provider to receive a third dose.
- Third doses for the reasons of travel are not being provided at HPPH clinics.
- A complete two-dose vaccination series continues to meet all proof of vaccination requirements.

Proof of vaccination requirements

Provincial requirements

- The Ontario government continues to require people to be fully vaccinated and provide proof of their vaccination status to access certain businesses and settings. Information is available at <https://covid-19.ontario.ca/proof-covid-19-vaccination>.
- HPPH has issued a Letter of Instruction to the owners and operators of facilities in the communities they serve, where organized sports are played or practised. The Letter of Instruction can be found at <https://www.hpph.ca/en/health-matters/section-22-orders-and-instructions.aspx>
 - Owners and operators of sports or recreational fitness facilities in Huron Perth must require proof of COVID-19 vaccination or a valid medical exemption for anyone over the age of 12 who enters an indoor area of a sports or recreational fitness facility to participate in, coach, officiate, or watch organized sport.
 - This requirement does not apply to school sports. HPPH continues to monitor local case rates, including in schools, and works closely with school boards to provide recommendations on making sports safer.

How to get a provincial vaccination certificate

- At any time you can download and print your vaccine certificate through the provincial portal at <https://covid19.ontariohealth.ca/> (please note there is **no** www in this web address)
- You will need the following to log into the provincial portal:
 - A green photo health (OHIP) card (you will need the numbers from the front and back of the card, expired cards will be accepted)
 - Your date of birth
 - Your postal code that is associated with your health card
- If you need help getting a copy of your receipt (online or a print copy) call the Provincial Vaccine Contact Centre at 1-833-943-3900.
- Public libraries across Huron Perth are also offering to help people print their vaccine receipt.
- One Care Community Support Services is able to help people access their receipt as well: 1-844-482-7800.

Vaccination opportunities in Huron-Perth

HPPH

- HPPH clinics are available at www.hpph.ca/vaccinebooking.
 - Please note HPPH vaccination clinics are now bookable only.
 - Clinics will be held at the Stratford Rotary and Goderich Memorial sites, as well as at the Clinton and Stratford HPPH sites and in some smaller communities.
- To book an appointment, visit www.hpph.ca/vaccinebooking or call 1-833-753-2098.
- Please subscribe to the Vaccine Booking page at www.hpph.ca/vaccinebooking if you would like to get updates about eligibility and clinic availability.
 - The above page is the only page that will push out updates.
 - Follow us on Facebook, Twitter or Instagram for the latest updates.
 - www.facebook.com/HuronPerthPublicHealth
 - www.twitter.com/HPPublicHealth
 - www.instagram.com/huronperthpublichealth

- If possible, please bring a completed Client Information Sheet (consent form) found at www.hpph.ca/vaccinebooking under “Book an appointment”.

Pharmacies

- Check with your local pharmacy for possible walk-in opportunities. A list of pharmacies that offer COVID-19 vaccinations can be found at [COVID-19 Pharmacy Vaccine Locations](#).

Current Vaccination progress

- As of December 5th, we are reporting 219,283 vaccine doses administered in Huron Perth by HPPH and partners.
- For Huron Perth residents aged 5 and over, 81.0% have received one dose and 77.0% are fully vaccinated and 6% have received 3 doses.
- Please note: we will be updating our dashboard to show data for 5 years of age and older.
- Huron-Perth vaccination coverage information on our COVID-19 Data in Huron and Perth page. Here is a direct link to the dashboard: [COVID-19 Vaccination Coverage Dashboard](#).
- HPMVAC continues to encourage vaccinations for younger residents in particular. Coverage rates for residents 40 and younger are lower than other age brackets.

Information for healthcare providers and pharmacists

- The [National Advisory Committee on Immunization \(NACI\)](#) recommends that **for individuals 12 years of age and older**, COVID-19 vaccines may be given at the same time as, or any time before or after, other vaccines, including live, non-live, adjuvanted, and non-adjuvanted vaccines.
- The [National Advisory Committee on Immunization \(NACI\)](#) recommends that **children aged 5-11** do not receive another vaccine 14 days before or after the pediatric Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine.
- Effective immediately, the province is recommending re-vaccination with a new COVID-19 vaccine primary series post-transplantation for individuals who receive hematopoietic stem cell transplants (HSCT), hematopoietic cell transplants (HCT) (autologous or allogeneic), and recipients of CAR-T-cell therapy, due to the loss of immunity following therapy or transplant.
- If an individual has received the recommended dose(s) of a COVID-19 vaccine that has not been approved by Health Canada but is listed for emergency use by the WHO, this will be considered as valid dose(s). We do not recommend additional doses at this time. These individuals should submit their documentation to the HPPH online form and we will enter into COVax ON. More information can be found here: [COVID-19 Guidance for Individuals Vaccinated outside of Ontario/Canada](#)
 - WHO list of approved vaccines is at bottom of this page: [COVID-19 vaccines | World Health Organization](#)

Also remember

- Regardless of vaccination status, everyone must continue to follow all public health measures as described in Reopening Ontario legislation because a significant number of our population must be vaccinated with both doses to provide enough protection. As long as COVID is still circulating in Ontario, it is important to continue public health measures, even if you are vaccinated.

For More Information

Please visit www.hpph.ca/vaccine for more information, or contact your HPMVAC sector representative. The HPMVAC membership list is available at www.hpph.ca/vaccine. You can also call HPPH at 888.221.2133 for more information.

About HPMVAC

- The Huron Perth COVID-19 Mass Vaccination Advisory Committee (HPMVAC) is a collaborative of multiple relevant sector stakeholder members from our Huron and Perth communities.
- Under the leadership of Huron Perth Public Health, our table meets to inform COVID-19 mass vaccination planning and operations for our communities.
- This memo serves to update you, our community members and partners. Please note, guidance provided is subject to change. This reflects the evolving nature of COVID-19 and related supply chain logistics.

Appendix A: Individuals Eligible for Third Dose of COVID-19 Vaccine

Third dose eligibility (six-month interval)

The following individuals will be eligible for a booster dose **when at least six months have passed since their last dose:**

- Individuals aged 50 and over (born in 1971 or earlier);
 - Ages 70 and over can currently book into HPPH clinics, ages 50 and older will be able to start booking on December 13th
- Health care workers as outlined in provincial guidance (see below).
- Designated essential caregivers in congregate settings (including long-term care home and retirement home staff and designated caregivers);
- Individuals who received a complete series of a viral vector vaccine (two doses of the AstraZeneca vaccine or one dose of the Janssen vaccine); and
- First Nation, Inuit and Métis adults and their non-Indigenous household members.

Healthcare worker eligibility

[Regulated health professionals](#) and any staff member, contract worker, student/trainee, registered volunteer, or other designated essential caregivers currently working in-person in a health care organization, including workers that are not providing direct patient care and are frequently in the patient environment (i.e. cleaning staff, research staff, other administrative staff) are included in the below:

- All hospital and acute care staff including:
 - Critical Care Units, Emergency Departments and Urgent Care Departments, COVID-19 Medical Units, Code Blue Teams, rapid response teams o General internal medicine and other specialists, Surgical care, Obstetrics
- All patient-facing health care workers/staff involved in the COVID-19 response:
 - COVID-19 Specimen Collection Centers, COVID-19 Isolation Centers o Mobile Testing Teams, COVID-19 Laboratory Services, Teams supporting outbreak response (e.g., IPAC teams supporting outbreak management, inspectors in the patient environment)
 - COVID-19 vaccine clinics and mobile immunization teams
 - Current members of Ontario's Emergency Medical Assistance Team (EMAT)
- Medical First Responders (ORNGE, paramedics, firefighters providing medical first response, police and special constables providing medical first response as part of their regular duties).
- Health care workers and designated essential caregivers in congregate settings (assisted living, correctional settings, shelters, LTCHs/RHs, supportive housing, hospices and palliative care settings, etc.)
- Home and community health care workers, providing in-person care, including:
 - Needle exchange/syringe programs & supervised consumption and treatment services
 - Indigenous health care service providers including but not limited to: Aboriginal Health Access Centers, Indigenous Community Health Centers, Indigenous Interprofessional Primary Care Teams, and Indigenous Nurse Practitioner-Led Clinics
 - Community health centres, chronic homecare, birth centres, dentistry and dental hygiene, Pharmacies, Primary care, Walk-in clinics, gynecology/obstetrics, Midwifery, Nurse practitioner-led clinics/Contract nursing agencies, Otolaryngology (ENT), medical and surgical specialties, medical transport, laboratory services, independent health facilities, health care providers in developmental services, mental health and addictions services
 - Health care workers in schools/daycare/campus, sexual health clinics, community diagnostic

imaging, dietary/nutrition, audiology, naturopathy, holistic care, chiropractic, chronic pain clinics, kinesiology/physiotherapy, occupational therapy, psychiatry, acupuncture, registered massage therapy, psychotherapy, social work, public health

Immunocompromised eligibility (two-month interval)

Those who are eligible may receive a 3rd dose at a minimum of eight weeks after their second dose. Refer to [COVID-19 Vaccine Third Dose Recommendations](https://www.health.gov.on.ca/en/pro/programs/publichealth/coronavirus/docs/vaccine/COVID-19_vaccine_third_dose_recommendations.pdf) (https://www.health.gov.on.ca/en/pro/programs/publichealth/coronavirus/docs/vaccine/COVID-19_vaccine_third_dose_recommendations.pdf) for more information.

Third dose eligibility in this group includes individuals with the following conditions:

- a transplant recipient (including solid organ transplant and hematopoietic stem cell transplants)
- receiving stable, active treatment (chemotherapy, targeted therapies, immunotherapy) for a malignant hematologic disorder or solid tumor
- in receipt of chimeric antigen receptor (CAR)-T-cell
- an individual with moderate or severe primary immunodeficiency (for example, DiGeorge syndrome, Wiskott-Aldrich syndrome)
- Stage 3 or advanced untreated HIV infection and those with acquired immunodeficiency syndrome
- undergoing active treatment with the following categories of immunosuppressive therapies: anti-B cell therapies (monoclonal antibodies targeting CD19, CD20 and CD22), high-dose systemic corticosteroids, alkylating agents, antimetabolites, or tumor-necrosis factor (TNF) inhibitors and other biologic agents that are significantly immunosuppressive or are taking specific immunosuppressant medications (PDF)
- receiving dialysis (hemodialysis or peritoneal dialysis)

Senior congregate settings (long-term care, retirement homes)

- Residents of high-risk congregate settings including long-term care homes, licensed retirement homes and First Nations elder care lodges.
- This group is eligible to receive a third dose at a minimum of 5 months after their second dose.
- HPPH and partners have provided third doses to this group.
Public Health Units are able to work with partner ministries to determine eligible senior congregate settings as well.

¹ Active treatment includes patients who have completed treatment within 3 months

² Active treatment for patients receiving B-cell depleting therapy includes patients who have completed treatment within 12 months

³ Refer to the Immunization of immunocompromised persons: Canadian Immunization Guide - Canada.ca for additional information.