

HPMVAC Update: Dec. 16, 2021

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What's new

- The Omicron Variant of Concern is expected to become the dominant strain in Ontario soon. Early evidence suggests that a third dose or booster can further increase protection against severe illness and hospitalization. The increased transmissibility of the Omicron variant could put additional strain on Ontario's hospital capacity, making it critical that all Ontarians receive their booster dose as soon as possible.
- Booster dose eligibility:
 - As of Monday, Dec. 20, all individuals aged 18 and over will be able to receive a third dose, three months following their second dose.
- Due to the high transmissibility of the Omicron variant and regional cases, everyone is reminded to follow all public health measures including directions on isolation. See www.hpph.ca/coronavirus for the latest information.
- Effective January 4, 2022, the province will require the use of the enhanced vaccine certificate with QR code and the Verify Ontario app in settings where proof of vaccination is required.
- Effective December 20, 2021, proof of vaccination for youth aged 12 to 17 years participating in organized sports at recreational facilities will be required by the province.

Vaccine eligibility

- Please see www.hpph.ca/vaccinebooking for information on vaccine eligibility.
- Use the HPPH [dose calculator](#) to find out if you are eligible.
- A list of who is eligible for a third dose or booster dose can be found at www.hpph.ca/thirddose

- Information can also be found on the Ontario Government’s website at <https://covid-19.ontario.ca/getting-covid-19-vaccine>

Vaccination opportunities in Huron-Perth

HPPH

- HPPH clinic information is available at www.hpph.ca/vaccinebooking.
- To book an appointment, visit www.hpph.ca/vaccinebooking or call 1-833-753-2098.
- ONE CARE can provide free transportation to COVID-19 vaccination appointments across Huron & Perth counties for seniors and persons with a disability within the meaning of the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005. To learn more or register for a ride, please call central intake at 1-844-482-7800.
- Follow Huron Perth Public Health on Facebook, Twitter or Instagram for the latest updates.
 - www.facebook.com/HuronPerthPublicHealth
 - www.twitter.com/HPPublicHealth
 - www.instagram.com/huronperthpublichealth

Pharmacies

- A list of pharmacies that offer COVID-19 vaccinations can be found at [COVID-19 Pharmacy Vaccine Locations](#). Please note that the best way to book may be through a pharmacy’s online system.

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.
- 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

- For information on second doses please visit www.hpph.ca/SecondDose
- Use the HPPH [dose calculator](#) to determine when you are eligible for a Second Dose.

Third doses

- The latest available data suggests that the Omicron variant is more transmissible than the Delta variant and will become the dominant variant by the end of the month. Early evidence suggests that a third dose or booster can further increase protection against severe illness and hospitalization. The increased transmissibility of the Omicron variant could put additional strain on Ontario’s hospital capacity, making it critical that all Ontarians receive their booster dose as soon as possible.
- As of Monday, Dec. 20, all individuals aged 18 and over will be able to receive a third dose, three months following their second dose.
 - For more information, see [All Ontarians 18+ Eligible for COVID-19 Booster Appointments at](#)

Three-Month Interval

- 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.
- For a complete list of Third Dose eligibility, as well as guidance for certain populations regarding fourth doses, please see the Ministry of Health's [COVID-19 Vaccine Third Dose Recommendations](#).
- Visit www.hpph.ca/ThirdDose for more information.

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>.
- Effective December 20, 2021, proof of vaccination for youth aged 12 to 17 years participating in organized sports at recreational facilities will be required by the province. For more information see: <https://news.ontario.ca/en/release/1001327/ontario-taking-action-to-protect-against-omicron-variant>.
 - This provincial requirement is similar to the HPPH Letter of Instruction issued to 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 www.hpph.ca/instruction
- Effective January 4, 2022, the province will require the use of the enhanced vaccine certificate with QR code and the Verify Ontario app in settings where proof of vaccination is required. The QR code can be used digitally or by printing a paper copy. Individuals can download their enhanced certificate with QR code by visiting <https://covid-19.ontario.ca/book-vaccine/>.

How to get a provincial vaccination certificate

- As of Jan. 4, all provincial vaccination certificates presented must include a QR code. The QR code can be used digitally or by printing a paper copy. If you previously printed a vaccination certificate and it didn't have a QR code, you will need to download your current version with the QR code.
- 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)
- 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.

Current Vaccination progress

- As of Dec. 13, 2021, vaccination coverage in Huron-Perth **for ages 5 and over**, was as follows:
 - 82% of residents have at least one dose
 - 78% fully vaccinated
 - 9% fully vaccinated and 3rd dose
- Huron-Perth vaccination coverage information can be found on our COVID-19 Data in Huron and Perth vaccination coverage dashboard: [COVID-19 Vaccination Coverage Dashboard](#).

Information for healthcare providers and pharmacists

- 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.

Continue following Public Health Measures

- 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 fully vaccinated 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.