



ADVISORY

Updated COVID-19 Vaccine Guidance

July 7, 2023

On July 7, 2023, the Ministry of Health updated the [COVID-19 Vaccine Guidance Document](#). The changes align with the [NACI recommendations](#) published on June 9, 2023. A summary of the changes include:

- removal of the COVID-19 Janssen vaccine as an available vaccine option,
- bivalent COVID-19 vaccines are now authorized for primary series in individuals over the age of 6 months,
- bivalent Moderna is now authorized for use as a booster for individuals aged 5-17, and
- individuals 5 years and older who have not yet received their spring booster should consider delaying until fall.

Primary Series Recommendations

It is anticipated that the original monovalent mRNA vaccines will no longer be available in Canada within the next few months. If a patient has partially completed their primary series with a dose(s) of the original monovalent mRNA vaccines, their series should be continued, not restarted. For additional information on the interchangeability of COVID-19 vaccines, please visit the [COVID-19 vaccine chapter](#) in the Canadian immunization guide.

The new recommendations for the use of bivalent vaccines for primary series initiation or completion are as follows:

Age Group	Vaccine Type	Number of doses and recommended interval for general population.	Number of doses and recommended interval for moderately to severely immunocompromised individuals.
Ages 6 months to under 5	Modern Spikevax bivalent (25mcg/0.25mL)	2 doses at least 8 weeks apart	3 doses 4-8 weeks apart
Ages 5-11	Pfizer-BioNTech Comirnaty bivalent (10 mcg/ 0.2mL) Modern Spikevax bivalent (25mcg/0.25mL)	2 doses at least 8 weeks apart	3 doses 4-8 weeks apart

Ages 12 and older	Pfizer-BioNTech Comirnaty bivalent (30 mcg/ 0.3mL). Preferred for individuals aged 12-29. Modern Spikevax bivalent (25mcg/0.25mL)	2 doses at least 8 weeks apart	3 doses 4-8 weeks apart
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Booster Recommendations

Effective July 7, 2023, individuals 5 years and older are recommended to delay receipt of COVID-19 booster until fall 2023. Receiving a booster dose in the fall, as respiratory season commences, will maximize protection against COVID-19 outcomes when peak circulation of the virus is expected. The decision to receive a booster dose prior to fall 2023 may be appropriate for certain individuals based on their unique health status and personal situation. Individuals are encouraged to speak with their health care provider.

COVID-19 Vaccine Clinic

Peterborough Public Health will be offering one COVID-19 vaccination clinic per week for the remainder of the summer at our routine clinic located at 185 King Street. These appointments are recommended for individuals 12 and under and individuals initiating or completing their primary series. More clinic times will become available in the fall. The fall booster campaign will align with the Universal Influenza Immunization Program (UIIP). More information on fall booster dose eligibility will be available in the coming months.

Community members must book an appointment via the provincial vaccine booking centre call line at 1- 833-943-3900 or online at www.ontario.ca/book-vaccine/. Walk-ins are not accepted at this clinic. More information about eligibility and the clinic schedule is available online at www.peterboroughpublichealth.ca/covid-19-vaccine-clinic/.

This advisory is available on our website at www.peterboroughpublichealth.ca/health-professionals

For more information, please contact Patti Fitzgerald, Immunization Program Manager by calling 705-743-1000, Ext. 295 or emailing pfitzgerald@peterboroughpublichealth.ca.