

## Ontarians 18+ Eligible for Second Booster Shot

July 21, 2022

The government has [expanded eligibility for second booster doses](#) to Ontarians aged 18 and over as an extra layer of protection for those who may need it. The following website/email script may be adapted for your clinic and patients.

### UPDATE ON ELIGIBILITY FOR SECOND COVID-19 BOOSTER SHOTS

Dear patients,

You may have heard that the government has expanded eligibility for second booster doses for COVID-19 to all Ontarians aged 18 and over. Here are the key things to know:

- **For most healthy adults aged 18-59 who are fully vaccinated and have received a booster, getting a second booster may not be vital right now and you may wish to wait until the fall.**
  - The evidence shows that most individuals aged 18-59 will continue to have strong protection against severe disease more than six months after their first booster dose.
- Of note, a more targeted vaccine against the Omicron variants – known as a bivalent vaccine – is expected to be available in the fall. **Those who receive a booster now may receive a bivalent shot in the fall, although timing and quantity of the bivalent vaccine are still unknown.**
- **Reasons to consider a second booster now** and not waiting for fall include:
  - Having other conditions that put one at risk for severe outcomes from COVID-19, such as diabetes, obesity, and pregnancy.
  - Personal considerations, such as being a healthcare worker/essential worker, the ability to take time off work if unwell and being a caregiver for or living with people at high risk from COVID-19, given that the vaccines reduce COVID-19 transmission.
- **Reminder – for those at high-risk of serious illness from COVID-19, getting a second booster dose as soon as possible continues to be recommended:**
  - Aged 60 and older;
  - First Nation, Inuit and Métis individuals and their non-Indigenous household members aged 18 and older;
  - Residents of long-term care homes, retirement homes, or Elder Care Lodges and older adults living in other congregate settings that provide assisted-living and health services; and
  - [Individuals who are moderately to severely immunocompromised.](#)

With cases, hospitalizations and ICU admissions increasing in recent weeks, staying up to date on your vaccine series is the best way to prevent severe outcomes from COVID-19 infection. **The priority remains ensuring all Ontarians 18+ get their first booster dose and those at high-risk get their second.**

Masking, spending time outdoors, staying home if sick and using rapid antigen tests remain important ways to reduce the risk of spreading or getting COVID-19. Note that you can continue to get rapid antigen tests at no cost from [grocery stores, pharmacies](#) and other venues.

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We are always here for you and will ensure you get the care you need when you need it.

Best regards,