

## Key Messages on Bivalent COVID-19 Booster

- Individuals aged 18 and older, as well as individuals aged 12 to 17 who are immunocompromised, are eligible to receive the bivalent booster vaccine at a recommended interval of six months, regardless of the number of booster doses previously received.
- The bivalent vaccine is only authorized as a booster dose. This means that eligible individuals must have completed their primary series to receive it.
- The bivalent COVID-19 booster better protects against the most recently circulating COVID-19 variants in Ontario compared with the original vaccines that only target the original COVID-19 virus. The bivalent vaccine is an updated version of the original COVID-19 vaccine, it is not a new vaccine.

### Adults 18+

- As of September 26, 2022, all adult COVID-19 vaccine booster dose appointments are for the bivalent vaccine. **Individuals should only be offered the bivalent booster.**

### High-risk Individuals

- Individuals belonging to the following groups are recommended to get their bivalent booster as soon as they are eligible (i.e., at an interval of three months or 84 days), to protect themselves this fall as people spend more time indoors:
  - individuals aged 65 and over;
  - residents of long-term care homes, retirement homes, Elder Care Lodges, and individuals living in other congregate settings that provide assisted-living and health services;
  - First Nations, Inuit and Métis individuals and their non-Indigenous household members aged 18 and over;
  - pregnant individuals aged 18 and over;
  - health care workers aged 18 and over; and
  - moderately to severely immunocompromised individuals aged 12 and over:
    - For adolescents 12-17 years of age with moderately to severely immunocompromising conditions and/or who have biological or social risk factors that place them at high risk of severe outcomes from COVID-19, a booster dose of the **bivalent Moderna** COVID-19 vaccine may be offered off-label based on clinical discretion.

### Important to note:

- The original COVID-19 vaccines can only be offered:
  - as primary series,
  - as a booster for all children aged five to 11 and individuals aged 12 to 17 year who are not immunocompromised, or
  - as a booster for individuals aged 18 and older only if the individual clearly requests it at the vaccine site.

If you have questions, please contact or visit:

- The [Ontario COVID-19](#) website, which continues to be updated to reflect any changes to vaccine recommendations and eligibility.
- The Provincial Vaccine Contact Centre at 1-833-943-3900 to speak with an experienced health agent or health specialist at 1-833-943-3900 (TTY for people who are deaf, hearing-impaired, or speech-impaired: 1-866-797-0007), available in more than 300 languages, seven days a week from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.
- The SickKids COVID-19 Vaccine Consult Service at [1-888-304-6558](tel:1-888-304-6558) or [sickkids.ca/vaccineconsult](https://sickkids.ca/vaccineconsult) (appointments are available in multiple languages)
- The Scarborough Health Network VaxFacts Clinic at 416-438-2911 ext. 5738 or [www.shn.ca/vaxfacts](https://www.shn.ca/vaxfacts). Appointments are available seven days a week, from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m., in over 200 languages.