

## **Bivalent COVID-19 Booster Dose is Available For These Eligible Groups**

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Earlier this week, Ontario's Ministry of Health announced that the Ontario government is offering the bivalent COVID-19 booster dose to all Ontarians aged 18 and over, beginning with the most vulnerable populations.\*

Bivalent COVID-19 booster appointments can be made for these populations, including:

- moderately to severely immunocompromised people aged 12 and over
- health care workers aged 18 and over
- people aged 70 and over
- residents of Long-Term Care homes, retirement homes, Elder Care Lodges and people living in other congregate settings that provide assisted-living and health services
- First Nation, Inuit and Métis individuals and their non-Indigenous household members aged 18 and over
- pregnant individuals aged 18 and over.\* In fact, the National Advisory Committee on Immunization (NACI) strongly recommends that, at any stage of pregnancy, “pregnant people should be offered a fall COVID-19 booster dose regardless of the number of booster doses [they] previously received.”\*

To prioritize members of these six groups, new booster appointments for Ontarians aged 18 and over who do not belong to these groups will be paused until September 26.\* They can start booking their appointments today, but the availability of appointments is based on shipment schedules and vaccine supply.\*

If you are aged 18 and over and you already booked a booster appointment sometime between September 12 and 25, you will still have your appointment.\* If it's available, the bivalent booster will be offered.\*

No matter how many booster doses you have already received, you can receive the bivalent booster as long as it is at least six months after your last booster.\*

### **How do I book an appointment?**

1. Click [here](#) to book an appointment through the COVID-19 vaccination portal
2. Call the Provincial Vaccine Contact Centre (PVCC) at 1-833-943-3900
3. Contact your public health unit and make an appointment through their booking system. Click [here](#) to find your public health unit and learn how to contact them.

4. Book an appointment at Indigenous-led vaccination clinics.
5. Book an appointment with a participating health care provider or pharmacy. Click [here](#) to see the list of participating pharmacies.
6. Pregnant individuals and health care workers booking from September 12 to 25 must call the PVCC or book booster dose appointments through participating pharmacies. Click [here](#) to see the list of participating pharmacies.
7. People who live in Long-Term Care homes, retirement homes, and Elder Care Lodges may receive their bivalent booster dose directly through the congregate home where they live.\*

## **I have questions. Who can I talk to?**

It's your choice whether you get the bivalent booster, and you should feel confident about that choice! Click [here](#) to learn more about bivalent boosters.

If you have any questions, you can talk to a doctor for free through a service called VaxFacts, provided by the Scarborough Health Network.\* This service is the first of its kind and available to everyone in Canada.\*

Call 416-438-2911, ext. 5738 or click [here](#) to book an appointment to speak with a doctor.\* They understand that you may be uncertain, have concerns, or just want to learn more — and they are ready to talk, listen, answer your questions.\*

VaxFacts is a reliable source to get the most accurate information about vaccines and treatments for diseases like Monkeypox and COVID-19, childhood vaccines, flu vaccines, and preventative health counselling.\*

For questions about COVID-19 vaccines, you can also call the Provincial Vaccine Contact Centre at 1-833-943-3900 (TTY for people who are Deaf, hearing-impaired or speech-impaired: 1-866-797-0007).\* This service is open seven days a week from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. It can provide assistance in more than 300 languages.\*

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If you think you may be experiencing symptoms of COVID-19, take the self-assessment at [www.ontario.ca/coronavirus](http://www.ontario.ca/coronavirus). Follow all directions from your medical provider or your local health unit at the following phone numbers:

Telehealth Ontario: 1-866-797-0000

Toronto Public Health: 416-338-7600

Peel Public Health: 905-799-7700

Durham Region Health Department: 905-668-7711

York Region Public Health: 1-877-464-9675