

Update on COVID-19
Dr. Eileen de Villa, Medical Officer of Health
November 3, 2021 at 3 p.m.
Toronto City Hall, 100 Queen St. W.

- Thank you Mayor Tory, and good afternoon.
- If I may, before I commence my remarks on COVID, I would first like to extend a very happy Diwali, one filled with happiness, prosperity and joy, to all those who are celebrating starting tomorrow.
- As Mayor Tory just said, we are planning for the administration of third doses of COVID-19 vaccine to newly eligible Toronto residents.
- This follows last week's statement on third doses from the National Advisory Committee on Immunization.
- While we are currently reviewing today's provincial announcement and the recommendations provided by the Ontario Ministry of Health, at Toronto Public Health, along with our health care partners, we were already preparing for the next phase of this vaccination campaign.
- With today's announcement we now understand that new populations are eligible for a third dose of COVID-19 vaccine if at least 6 months after receiving a second dose. These newly eligible population groups include health care workers and essential caregivers in congregate settings, individuals 70 years of age or older, and individuals who received a two dose series of AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine, or COVISHIELD.
- According to Toronto Public Health data as of Monday, November 8, approximately 65,000 Torontonians will be eligible to receive a third dose of COVID-19 vaccine.
- With expanded eligibility, and as part of the next phase of the COVID-19 vaccination campaign, City-run immunization clinics are returning to a booked appointment-based system.

- I encourage you to book an appointment when you are eligible at a location that is most convenient for you.
- On Saturday at 8 a.m., through the provincial booking system, 40,000 appointments over the next two weeks at Toronto Public Health vaccine clinics will be available.
- Health care workers can receive their COVID-19 vaccine through the hospital with which they are affiliated. Many individuals 70 years of age and older will also have the opportunity to receive their COVID-19 vaccine through many hospital clinics.
- Toronto residents also have the option of receiving their COVID-19 vaccine through one of more than 450 local pharmacies that are offering the vaccine as well.
- In addition to administering COVID-19 vaccines at City-run immunization clinics, Toronto Public Health launched its annual flu vaccine campaign this week in the City-run immunization clinics by appointment only.
- Residents will be able to receive their flu vaccine at the same time as a COVID-19 vaccine.
- If you come to a Toronto Public Health clinic for a flu vaccine and you are eligible for a dose of COVID-19 vaccine, you will be offered the COVID-19 vaccine.
- Likewise, if you receive a COVID-19 vaccine at one of our clinics and have yet to receive a flu shot, you will be offered a flu vaccine at the same time.
- I want to stress that two doses of COVID-19 vaccine still provides strong protection against contracting COVID-19 and against serious outcomes associated with the virus.
- If you are eligible for your third dose, there are many options available for you. I would encourage you to get your vaccine through the channel that makes the best sense to you.

- If you're eligible for your first or second dose of COVID-19 vaccine, it's even more important that you start and complete your vaccination series as soon as possible.
- This protection is for you, for your family, and for our entire community, especially for our younger children who are not yet eligible for vaccination.

-30-

Media contact: tphmedia@toronto.ca