

# Considerations for Second COVID-19 Booster Doses: for Health Care Providers

Updated: July 18, 2022

Individuals (aged 18+) who have received a complete series of COVID-19 vaccine and 1 booster dose may choose to receive their 2<sup>nd</sup> booster dose as soon as they are eligible or wait until Fall 2022. Individuals deciding whether they should receive their 2<sup>nd</sup> booster dose now should consider:

- Their individual risk of exposure and/or interest in receiving vaccination now.
- The [NACI recommendation for vaccination in Fall 2022](#).
- The possibility of a new bivalent COVID-19 vaccine product becoming available in Fall 2022. This product may offer more targeted protection against the Omicron variant and is planned to be available pending Health Canada approval and NACI recommendations. Although everyone will be eligible to receive this product, details of when different groups will become eligible will be determined as vaccine supply becomes available. It is expected that the minimum interval between COVID-19 vaccine booster doses will be 3-5 months.

Considerations for timing 2<sup>nd</sup> booster doses

## Has the individual received a dose of COVID-19 vaccine in the last 3-5 months?

As of July 14, 2022 all individuals in Ontario aged ≥18 are eligible to receive a 2<sup>nd</sup> booster dose ≥5 months (140 days), and at a minimum of 3 months (84 days), after their first booster dose.

## Has the individual been infected with COVID-19 in the last 3 months?

Booster doses are still recommended to those who have had a COVID-19 infection. To maximize immune response after recent COVID-19 infection, you can wait 12 weeks from symptom onset or positive test result.

## Does the individual live/work/regularly come into close contact with anyone at high risk of severe disease from COVID-19?

## Does the individual plan to travel in the near future?

## Is the individual 18-59 years of age AND do they have a chronic health condition OR are they pregnant?

2<sup>nd</sup> booster dose recommended now

## Is the individual at high risk of severe disease from COVID-19 infection?

Those at high risk include:

- Individuals 60 years of age and older
- First Nation, Inuit and Métis individuals, and their non-Indigenous household members 18 years of age and older
- Residents of a long-term care home, retirement home, or Elder Care Lodge and older adults living in other congregate settings that provide assisted-living and health services
- Moderately to severely immunocompromised individuals

For details, see the Ministry of Health's [COVID-19 Booster Dose Recommendations](#).

**Reminder: Individuals who have not received a complete COVID-19 vaccine series AND 1 booster dose should receive their next dose as soon as they are eligible.**

Individuals with 3 doses have had the lowest rate of hospitalization compared to individuals who were not vaccinated or were under-vaccinated.