

# **COVID Vaccines and Children Update Session: Toronto's Childcare Sector**

**September 2022**

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Toronto Public Health

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**Director | Chief Nursing Officer**

Toronto Public Health

# Tkaronto (Toronto) Land Acknowledgement



*This meeting is being hosted on the traditional territory of many nations including the Mississaugas of the Credit, the Anishnabeg, the Chippewa, the Haudenosaunee and the Wendat peoples and is now home to many diverse First Nations, Inuit and Métis peoples.*

*We also acknowledge that Toronto is covered by Treaty 13, signed with the Mississaugas of the Credit and the Williams Treaties signed with multiple Mississaugas and Chippewa bands.*

<https://www.toronto.ca/city-government/accessibility-human-rights/indigenous-affairs-office/>

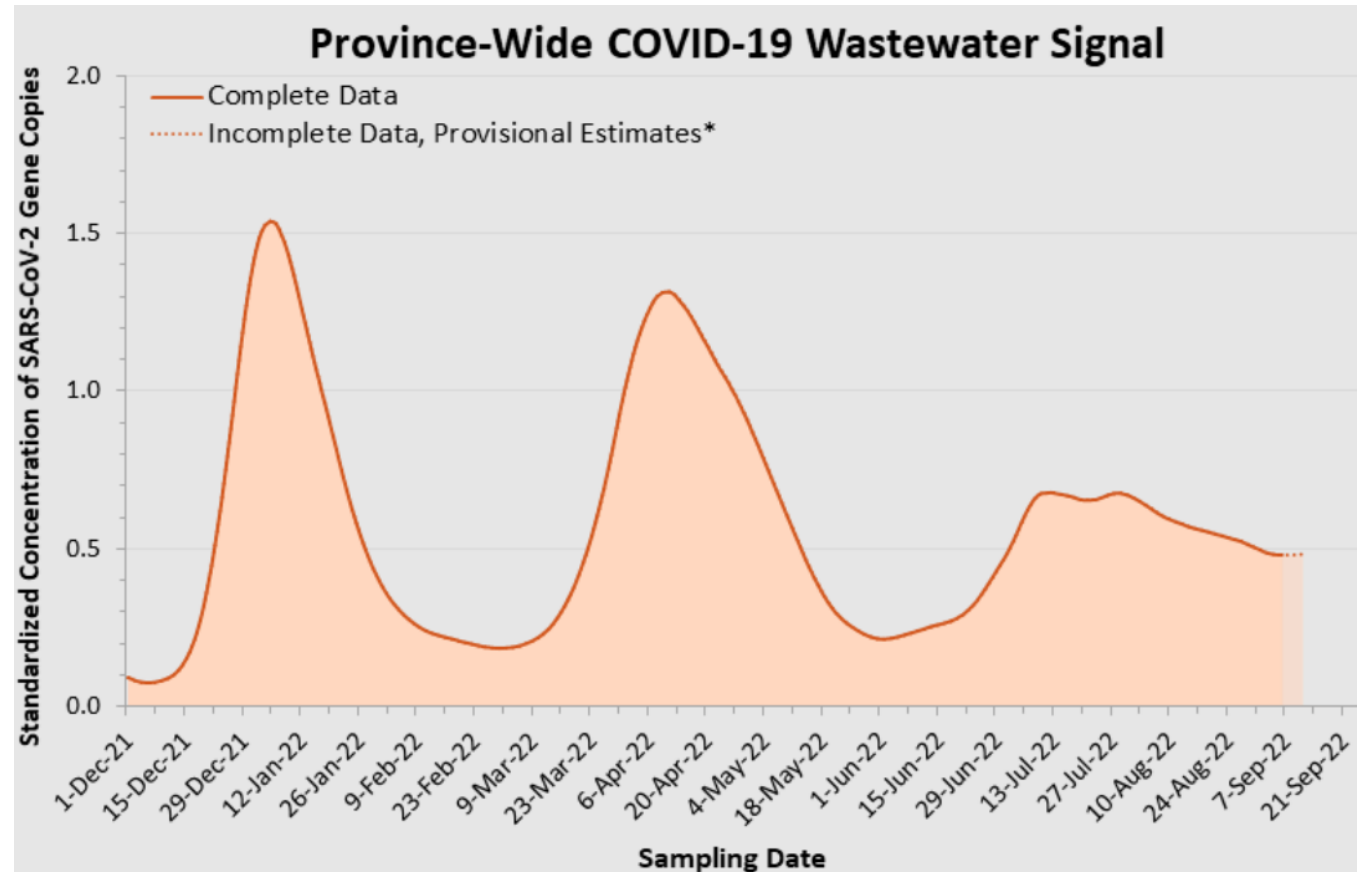
# COVID and Variants

- COVID is a viral infection that mainly affect the lungs and may continue to impact the brain, lungs and heart for months after recovering.
- A variant is a change (or mutation) in the COVID-19 virus.
- Variants tend to spread more quickly and can lead to more severe illness, including the need for hospitalization or death - especially in people who have not been vaccinated.
- **Omicron BA.5** is the dominant variant in Toronto and Ontario driving the 7<sup>th</sup> wave.

# Waste Water Surveillance: Keeping Track of COVID-19 in the Community

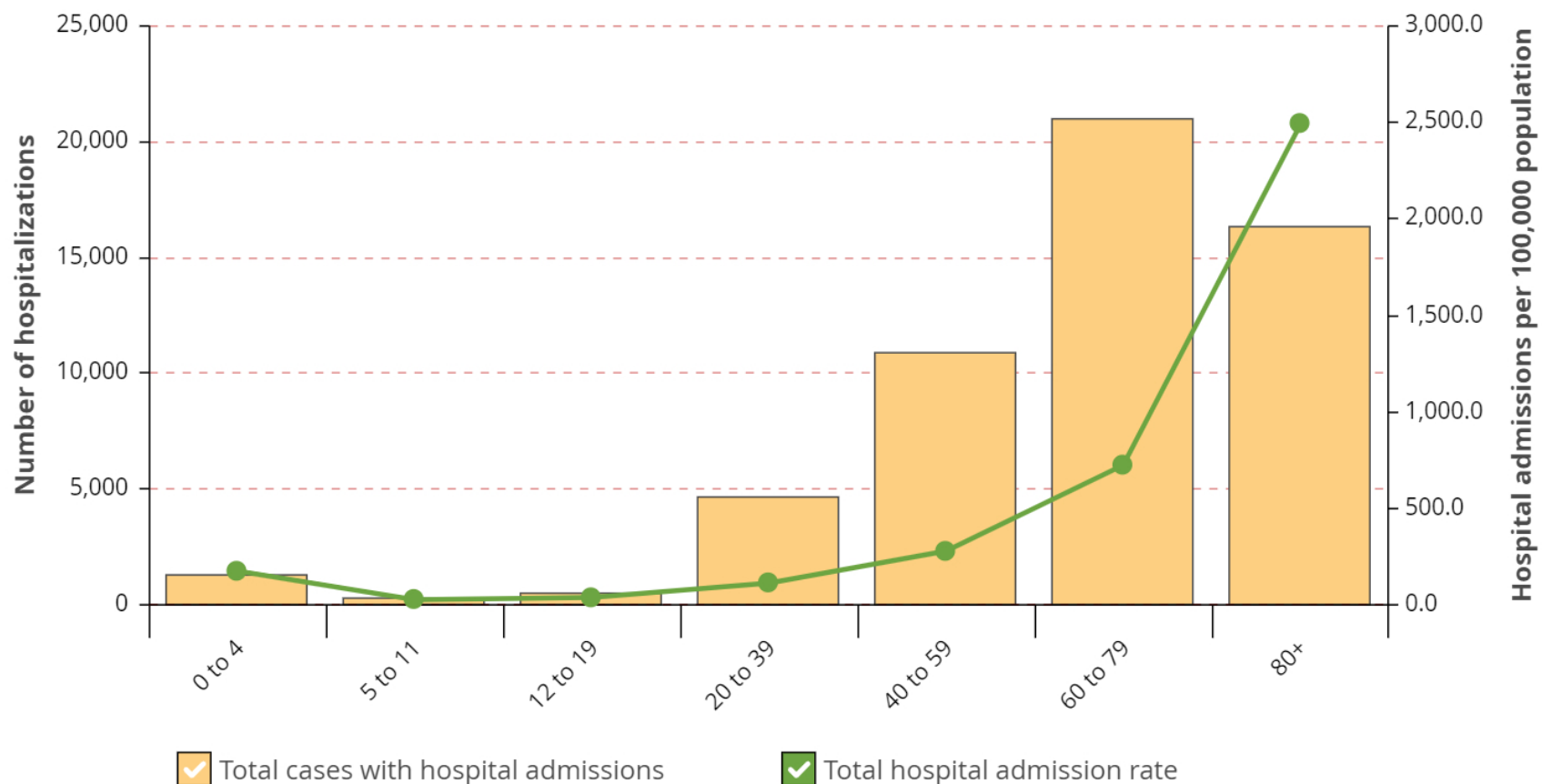
- Wastewater surveillance is one method to monitor the presence of COVID-19 in a community.
- It doesn't determine the number of cases of COVID-19 in the community but can generally identify if virus activity is increasing or decreasing.
- Toronto waste water monitoring can be found at:

<https://www.toronto.ca/home/covid-19/covid-19-pandemic-data/covid-19-wastewater-surveillance/>



# COVID hospitalizations – 0 to 4 yr olds had slightly more hospitalizations compared to older children

Counts and rates of cumulative hospitalizations among COVID cases by age group in Ontario as of September 10, 2022



# Hospitalization data for young children: Toronto & Ontario

## In Toronto:

- 188 children under the age of 5 have been hospitalized due to COVID
- 13 have been admitted to ICU
- 2 have died

Based on data as of August 23,2022 (TPH)

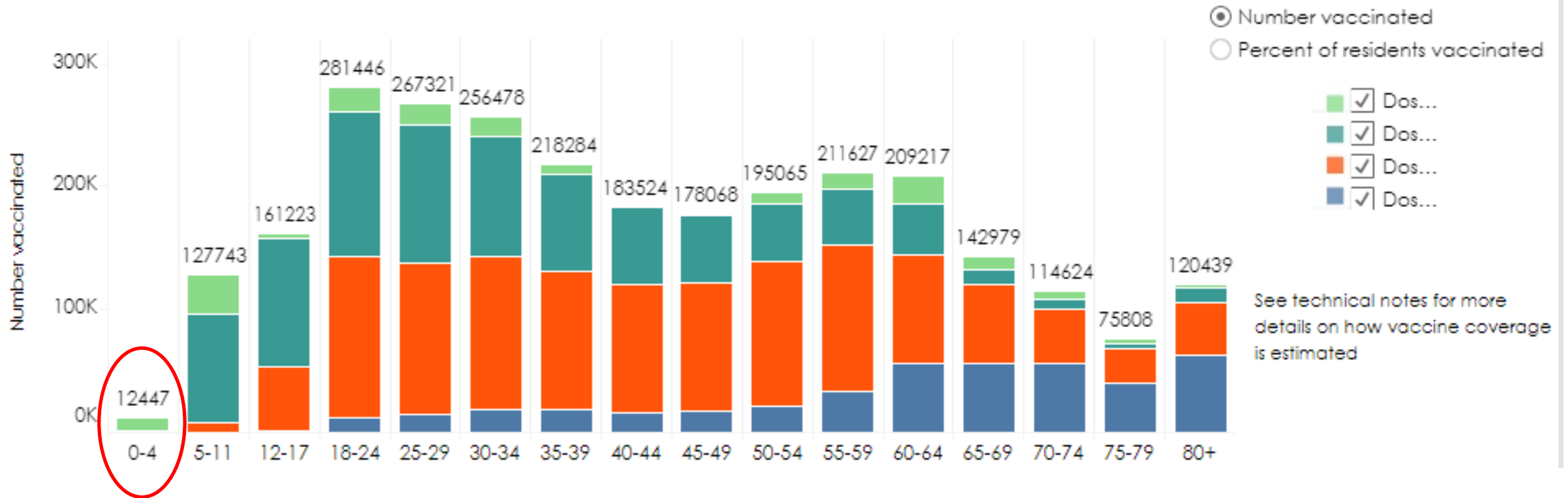
## In Ontario:

- 1,179 children under the age of 5 have been hospitalized due to COVID

Based on data as of August 13,2022: [Ontario COVID-19 Data Tool—Public Health Ontario](#)

# Over 12,000 ages 6 months to 4 years have received their 1<sup>st</sup> dose in Toronto

**Vaccination by age group** Data as of: September 15 2022 8:00 am





# COVID-19 Vaccine : Children 6 months to under 5 years Old

- **On July 14, 2022**, Health Canada approved the use of pediatric Moderna Spikevax mRNA COVID-19 vaccine for children ages 6 months to 5 years.
- Health Canada performed a thorough review and determined that the **benefits of this vaccine outweigh the risks** for children in this age group.
- NACI, Health Canada and the Public Health Agency of Canada will continue to **closely monitor the safety of this vaccine**, and will take action if any safety concerns are identified.



# Pediatric Pfizer Bio-Tech approved for children 6 months to under 5 years

- On September 9, 2022 Health Canada approved **Pfizer BioNTech Comirnaty (3 mcg)** for use in this age group.
- Health Canada performed a thorough review and determined that the **benefits of this vaccine outweigh the risks** for children in this age group.
- **3 dose primary series:** first 2 doses given 21 days apart followed by a third dose given 8 weeks after the second dose.
- Anticipated to be available in Ontario sometime this week.

# Vaccine Side Effects in young children

- Common COVID-19 side effects seen in young children are similar to those seen in adults.
- Usually mild and go away within 1 to 3 days.
- They include:
  - \***Fever** and chills
  - Sore arm near the injection site
  - Feeling tired
  - Headache
  - Achy muscles or joints

\* Rates of fever greater than 38°C among vaccine recipients were consistent with other commonly used and recommended pediatric vaccines. Observed within 7 days after first and second dose.

# WHAT IS IN THE PEDIATRIC COVID-19 VACCINE?

Same as older children, youth and adult vaccine



The vaccines contain instructions to have your body make antibodies



The vaccines contain lipids, salts, sugars and buffers



They do not contain eggs, gelatin, preservatives, latex or antibiotics



There is no COVID-19 virus in the vaccine that can give you COVID-19

[toronto.ca/COVID19](https://toronto.ca/COVID19)

 **TORONTO** Public Health



# COVID-19 VACCINES FOR CHILDREN 6 MONTHS TO UNDER 5 YEARS OLD



Now eligible for 2 doses of pediatric Moderna vaccine given 8 weeks apart



Protects against serious illness & hospitalization from COVID-19



Even if a child recently had COVID-19, vaccination is still safe & provides stronger protection



Talk to a health care provider for more information



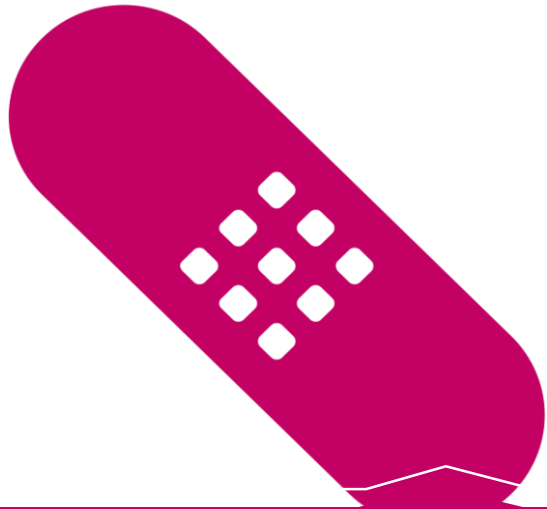
Book an appointment at a city clinic:  
[Toronto.ca/COVID19](https://toronto.ca/COVID19)  
or call 1-833-943-3900

# Benefits of Staying Up to Date with Vaccines for Children of All Ages

Staying up to date (primary series & boosters, when eligible) is important because vaccines:

- Are **safe and work with other measures to protect** children and those around them.
- **Safer return to child care settings/schools, and other activities.**
- Help children to avoid hospitalization due to COVID
- **Provide protection from long COVID**, even if they get a COVID infection while vaccinated.
- **Provide protection** ahead of the upcoming respiratory virus season.

# Where can children get vaccinated?



Mass Immunization  
Clinics



Hospitals/ Specialized  
accommodations Clinics



Pharmacies, Family  
Health Teams/  
Primary Care  
Providers

- **Appointments *are required* at most vaccine clinics for children under 5 years old**
- **Appointments *not required* for children aged 5+ at most vaccine clinics**
- **Check before you go to see if they offer vaccines for under 5 or if appointments needed**

# Supporting Parents

## Encourage parents to:

- ✓ Have a positive attitude about getting vaccinated
- ✓ Explain to their child what to expect before the vaccination appointment
- ✓ Have child choose a favourite blanket, stuffed animal, a book or toy that will distract or bring comfort during the appointment
- ✓ Share their positive personal experiences and stories
- ✓ **Get vaccinated as a family**



# Having a positive vaccine experience

## Making vaccines easier for your baby

### PLAN AHEAD

Talk to your doctor before:

- Using skin numbing creams and patches before the needle
- Using acetaminophen or ibuprofen for fever or pain after the needle



### DURING THE NEEDLE

Take deep breaths to stay calm. Use your normal speaking voice. Babies feel what their parents feel.

Breastfeed your baby before, during and after the needle. If your baby isn't breastfed, sugar water may be given right before.\*



Cuddle your baby on your lap. Keep your baby's arms and legs exposed.



Distract your baby with a toy, sing a song, or read a book.



\* To make sugar water, mix 1 teaspoon of sugar with 2 teaspoons of water (for babies only). After breastfeeding or sugar water, wipe your baby's mouth with a damp facecloth.

416.338.7600 | [toronto.ca/health](http://toronto.ca/health) | **TORONTO** Public Health

PH1702SS1269

[LINK](#)

## Making vaccines easier for your child

### PLAN AHEAD

Talk to your child about the health visit:

- They may feel a "poke" or "pinch" for a few seconds.
- Work on a plan together. Have your child choose a toy, book, or electronic device to distract or comfort them.
- Talk to your doctor or pharmacist about numbing creams or patches.
- If your child wants to look, that's OK too.



### DURING THE VACCINATION

Sit your child up and cuddle them during the needle.



Kids feel what you feel.



Distract your child with the toy, book, or electronic device you chose together.



### AFTER CARE

- Praise and reward your child. Positive reinforcement can work in kids of all ages.
- Talk to your doctor about giving acetaminophen or ibuprofen after the needle for fever, aches, or pain.



416.338.7600 | [toronto.ca/health](http://toronto.ca/health) | **TORONTO** Public Health

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[LINK](#)

# Fall Booster Dose Recommendations

- COVID infection and/or vaccine acquired immunity decreases over time.
- Waning immunity especially with Omicron subvariants – reinfections occur
- Fall booster doses are recommended, especially those at risk for getting very sick from COVID, to get stronger protection.
- NACI also recommends a fall booster dose for children, youth and adults (especially high risk individuals), to be prepared for the expected increase.
- If you recently had COVID you can get a booster after 3 to 6 months to get a better immune response.



# CHILDREN 5-11:

## Get your COVID-19 booster for the best protection



Children can get their COVID-19 booster 6 months after their 2<sup>nd</sup> dose.



A booster gives extra protection & lowers the chance of getting & spreading COVID-19.



Getting your booster helps protect your friends, family, & people who can't get vaccinated.



Boosters are safe—they were carefully studied & millions of doses have been given worldwide.



Walk-ins and appointments at city clinics welcome. Book at [Toronto.ca/COVID19](https://toronto.ca/COVID19) or 1-833-943-3900.

# Moderna Spikevax<sup>®</sup> Bivalent COVID Vaccine

- On **September 1, 2022** Health Canada authorized for use as the **first bivalent** (original and Omicron containing) COVID vaccine.
- Approved as a **COVID booster** in **adults ages 18+**.
- Clinical trial results showed vaccine triggers a strong immune response against both Omicron and the original virus strain.
- Also found a **good immune response** against the Omicron **BA.1, BA.4** and **BA.5** variants.
- **No new safety signals or vaccine-related cases of myocarditis or pericarditis** were observed in the clinical trials with booster dose of Moderna Spikevax<sup>®</sup> Bivalent (**50 mcg**).

- The Pfizer-BioNTech bivalent vaccine is being reviewed by Health Canada.
- It targets the BA.4/5 Omicron variant.
- It has been approved in the USA for 12 years of age and older.
- No evidence to date comparing the two different bivalent vaccines, and both are likely to provide strong protection to Omicron variants.



# Should I get a bivalent COVID-19 booster?



- ✓ Yes, residents who are 70+, have a weak immune system (12+), or are part of another high risk group can get it now.
- ✓ All residents 18+ can get it beginning September 26<sup>th</sup>.

## THE BIVALENT BOOSTER DOSE:

- ✓ Gives protection against the highly contagious Omicron variant.
- ✓ Will add an extra layer of protection against an expected rise in COVID-19 cases in the fall/winter.
- ✓ Can be given 3 to 6 months after your last dose or COVID-19 infection.

## FOR MORE INFORMATION:



[toronto.ca/COVID19](https://toronto.ca/COVID19)



1-833-943-3900

**Up to date** means a person has received all recommended COVID vaccine doses, including any booster dose(s) when eligible.

- Vaccines continue to provide the best protection against COVID and the variants, including Omicron.
- Visit [City of Toronto - COVID-19: Vaccine Eligibility & Doses](#) to see the recommended times to get COVID vaccines including booster(s).



# Ontario's Publicly Funded Immunization Schedule

Age at Vaccination	Vaccine																		
	Diphtheria	Tetanus	Pertussis	Polio	Haemophilus B (Hib)	Pneumococcal-C-13	Rotavirus	Measles	Mumps	Rubella	Varicella (Chickenpox)	Meningococcal-C	Meningococcal-ACYW	Hepatitis B	Human Papillomavirus (HPV)	Influenza	Pneumococcal-P23	Shingles	
2 months	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓													
4 months	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓													
6 months	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓														
*1 year						✓	✓	✓	✓		✓								
15 months										✓									
18 months	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓														
4-6 years	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓									
Grade 7											✓	✓	✓						
14 – 16 years	✓	✓	✓																
Every autumn															✓				
Adults	✓	✓	✓																
Every 10 Years	✓	✓																	
65-70 years																			✓
65 years+																✓			

Boxes filled with the same colour are given as one needle.

Rotavirus vaccine is given by mouth; 2 or 3 doses.

\* Vaccines required at 1-year of age should be given on or after the child's first birthday.

The vaccines in bold print are required for school attendance under the Immunization of School Pupils Act.

Vaccines for Grade 7 students are provided in the schools by local health units.

# Monkeypox is a virus not related to the virus that causes COVID

- **First case in Toronto May 20, 2022**, number of new cases has been decreasing
- **Total Cases: 491**,\* 99% of confirmed cases are male
- **Vaccines given: over 25,000\*\* doses**

## Symptoms include:

- Fever, headache, muscle aches, swollen lymph nodes and a rash.
- The rash and/or sores start 1-3 days after the fever.
  
- Anyone can contract monkeypox, but during this outbreak, gay, bisexual, and men who have sex with men have been affected.
  
- In Toronto there are **no cases in children; one youth case** (17 year old male who reported sex with same sex).
  
- There is currently a **low risk** of exposure for children and youth in Toronto.

\*as of Sept 22, 2022

\*\* as of Sept 14 2022

## Differences between Monkeypox, Chickenpox, & Hand, Foot & Mouth Disease

	Monkeypox	Chickenpox	Hand, Foot & Mouth Disease
<b>What are the symptoms?</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fever (1-5 days before rash)</li> <li>• Headache</li> <li>• Muscle/back aches</li> <li>• Swollen lymph nodes</li> <li>• Tiredness</li> <li>• Rash</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fever</li> <li>• Rash</li> <li>• Tiredness</li> <li>• Loss of appetite</li> <li>• Headache</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fever</li> <li>• Loss of appetite</li> <li>• Feeling unwell</li> <li>• Sore throat</li> <li>• Headache</li> <li>• Small painful mouth sores</li> <li>• Rash</li> </ul>
<b>What does the rash look like?</b>	Usually begins as flat red spots (that can look like pimples or heat rash), which turn into blisters and then form a crust.	Small red spots turn into blisters that form a crust. Usually starts on the chest, back and face then other parts of body	Small red spots or blisters often starting in the mouth then hands and feet.
<b>When do symptoms start?</b>	5-21 days after exposure (usually 6-13 days)	10-21 days after exposure	3-5 days after exposure
<b>How long do symptoms last?</b>	14-28 days	4-7 days	7-10 days
<b>When does it spread?</b>	Usually once rash develops, until blisters have crusted over and fallen off with a fresh layer of skin.	1 to 2 days before the rash develops, until crusting of all blisters.	For duration of illness and up to several weeks after it started.

Resource available  
for childcare, schools and  
parents

[LINK](#)

- Masks are not required at the start of the school year.
- Well-fitted, high-quality masks protect ourselves and others from COVID and respiratory infections.
- Recommended for 10 days from the first day after any symptom started, even if test negative or did not test for COVID.
- Special consideration for:
  - Anyone who is at higher risk of getting very sick from a respiratory virus
  - Anyone who lives, works or spends time with someone who is at higher risk, such as someone who has a weak immune system or is a senior.
  - In indoor public settings especially if they are crowded or have poor ventilation.

## Goal

To provide students with a normal return to school, on time and with the full school experience including all extracurricular activities.

**School measures** from Ministry of Education and Health to support in-person learning:

- Good hand hygiene
- Stay up-to-date with vaccinations
- Screen daily with updated screening tool
- Stay home when sick
- Enhanced cleaning procedures
- Improved ventilation
- Availability of high-quality masks for students and staff

- The Ministries of Health and Education will continue to monitor key indicators and the broader situation across the province to assess the need for public health and workplace safety measures
- Schools are advised to be prepared in case various measures need to be reintroduced should a new variant emerge or if cases of Covid-19 and other respiratory issues significantly rises during the winter months



# \*New\* School and Childcare Screening Tool based on Provincial Guidance





## STOP COVID-19 & Respiratory Viruses

Daily screening for children/students/adults. A parent/guardian can complete for their child.







September 6, 2022

### 1. Do you have any of these new or worsening symptoms?\*

#### A) One or more:




<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No  Fever > 37.8°C and/or chills	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No  Cough	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No  Trouble breathing	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No  Decrease or loss of taste/smell
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#### B) Two or more:

<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No  Sore throat	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No  Headache	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No  Feeling very tired	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No  Runny nose/ nasal congestion	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No  Muscle aches/ joint pain	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No  Nausea/vomiting/ diarrhea
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### 2. Have you tested positive for COVID-19 in the last 10 days and have symptom(s)?


Yes   
No

 If "YES" to Q.1 or 2 Stay home & self-isolate +  Follow extra measures 

### 3. Do you have only one symptom from 1(B) OR any of the following new or worsening symptoms?\*

Yes   
No

- Abdominal pain
- Pink eye
- Decreased or no appetite

 If "YES" Stay home until your symptom is improving for 24 hours (48 hours for nausea/vomiting/diarrhea) and you do not have any new symptoms


### 4. Have you been told that you should be quarantining, isolating, staying at home, or not attending school or child care right now? (e.g. by a doctor, federal border agent, public health)?

Yes   
No

 If "YES" Stay home + Follow instructions you were given

### 5. Have you been told you are a close contact of someone who has symptoms OR someone who tested positive for COVID-19?

Yes   
No

 If "YES" Follow extra measures + If symptoms\* develop, self-isolate right away

\*If the symptom is from a known health condition that gives you the symptom, select "No". If the symptom is new, different or getting worse, select "Yes". If there is mild tiredness, sore muscles or joints within 48 hours after a COVID-19 or flu vaccine, select "No".

## COVID-19 & Respiratory Viruses Screening Tool Next Steps

If you answered "YES" to any of the questions on page 1, follow the below instructions:

### Stay Home & Self-Isolate if You are Sick:

Stay home until you have no fever and your symptoms are improving for at least 24 hours (or 48 hours if nausea/vomiting/diarrhea).

Anyone who is feeling sick or has any new or worsening symptoms of illness, including those not listed in this screening tool, should stay home until their symptoms are improving and seek assessment from their health care provider if needed.

### Follow Extra Measures:

For 10 days after the start of symptoms OR a positive COVID-19 test (whichever came first) OR for 10 days after your last close contact with a person who has symptoms or a positive COVID-19 test:



- Wear a well-fitted mask in all public settings (including schools/child care, unless <2 years of age);



- Avoid non-essential activities where you need to take off your mask (e.g., dining out, playing a wind instrument, high contact sports where masks cannot be safely worn), with reasonable exceptions such as when eating in a shared space at school while maintaining as much distancing as possible;



- Do not visit people or settings (e.g. hospitals, long-term care homes) at higher risk, including where there are seniors or those who are immunocompromised.

Follow this advice even if you test negative for COVID-19 or you did not do a test. These measures are an added layer of prevention against the spread of COVID-19 and respiratory viruses.

### Follow Additional Guidance if Immunocompromised OR Living in a Highest-Risk Congregate Care Setting:

If residing in a highest-risk setting OR immunocompromised OR hospitalized for COVID-19 related illness, your isolation requirements may differ. See the [provincial screening tool](#) for additional guidance.

### Follow Additional Guidance as Instructed:

If you have been told that you should be quarantining, isolating, staying at home, or not attending school or child care right now (e.g., by a doctor, federal border agent, public health):

- Follow the guidance or directions that have been provided to you.
- If you travelled outside of Canada in the last 14 days, follow federal [requirements](#) for quarantine and testing after returning from international travel.

### Get Tested and Treated if Eligible:

- COVID-19 testing and treatments are available to certain groups. See [here](#) for more information.

[LINK](#)



# School and Childcare Screening Tool based on Provincial Guidance

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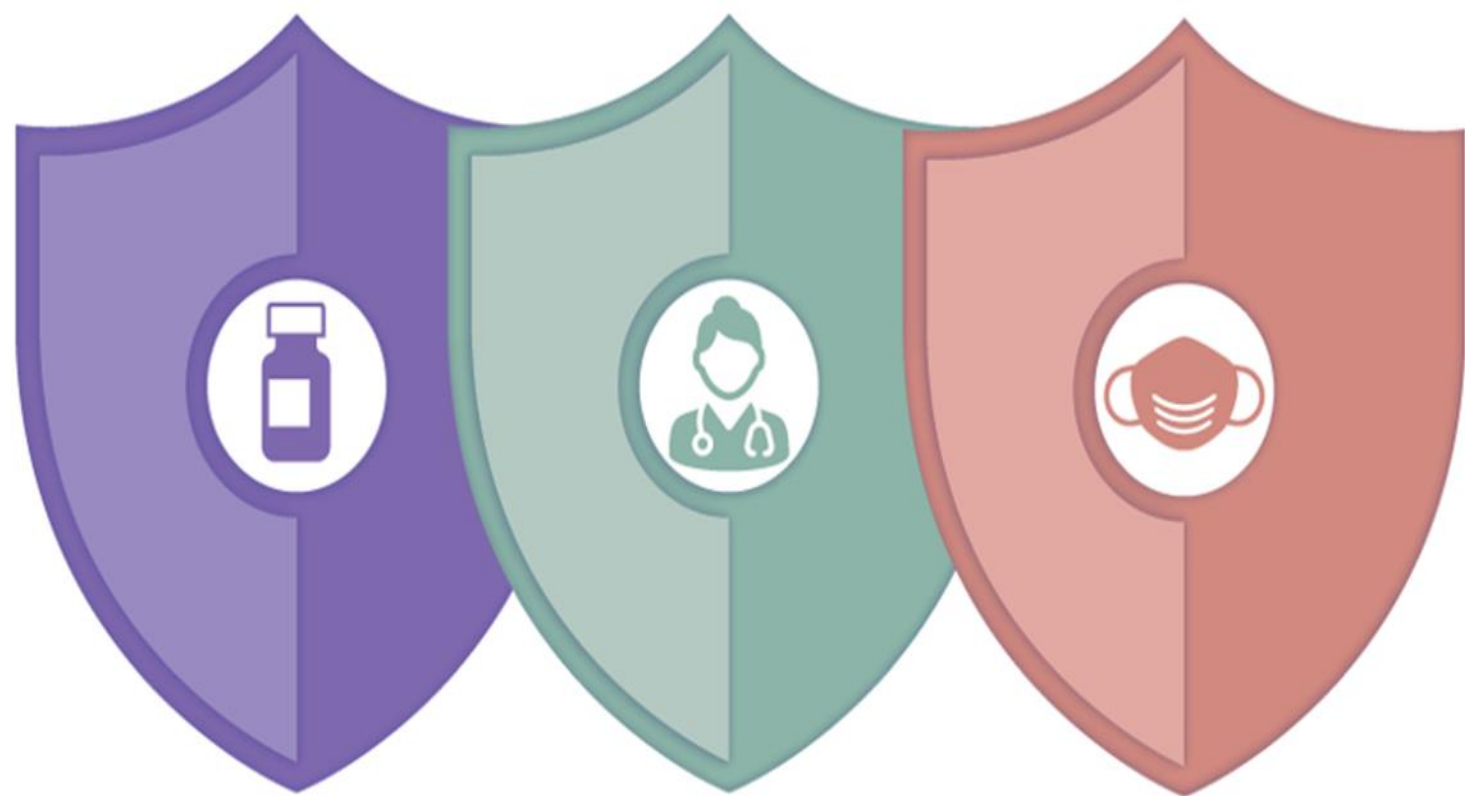
# Schools & Childcare Reporting of Reportable Diseases and Increased Absenteeism

- If schools/childcare settings suspect or have confirmation of a disease of public health significance or an absence rate in a daycare above what is typically experienced at that time.
- **Report to Toronto Public Health - Communicable Disease Notification Unit at 416-392-7411** during business hours Monday to Friday 8:30 am to 4:30 pm.



# LAYERS OF PROTECTION WORK

to keep you, your family,  
& your community safe  
from COVID-19



## VACCINES:

Stay up to date with your COVID-19 vaccines, including booster dose(s) when eligible

## TREATMENT:

Find out if you are eligible for antiviral medication, get tested if you have symptoms & talk to your doctor

## PREVENTION:

Continue to wear your masks indoors, in crowded spaces, & enjoy your social interaction outside when possible

- **Ministry of Health Vaccine Information Centre**
  - 1-833-943-3900. 7 days/week from 8am-8pm
- **Scarborough Health Network: VaxFacts Clinic**
  - One-to-One phone consultation with a Doctor to answer questions about COVID-19 vaccines, treatments, and other vaccines
  - Don't have to be a Scarborough resident
  - Book an appointment [online](#) or call 416-438-2911 ext. 5738
- **SickKids Hospital: COVID-19 Vaccine Consult Service**
  - By phone appointment only (youth 12+ or a parent/caregiver of a child or youth)
  - Available in multiple languages, using over-the-phone language interpretation
  - [Book online](#) or call 437-881-3505

# Health Connect Ontario - 811

- Connect with a Registered Nurse day or night for free, secure and confidential health advice.
- Check your symptoms, get health advice with referrals to local & specialized services as needed and access to a medical library.
- OHIP not needed. Anonymous calls accepted.
- Refugee Health Hotline calls are now redirected automatically to 811

**Online** (including live chat): [Ontario.ca/healthconnectontario](https://ontario.ca/healthconnectontario)

**Call: 811** or toll free TTY line 1-866-797-0007



Information in a pandemic

***FLIES FAST.***

Make sure you

**CHECK THE  
DATE**

on the information  
you're referencing.

**#ScienceUpFirst**



- Thank you for attending this session!
- Please take a few minutes share your feedback about this COVID vaccination webinar with us by using this link:

<https://s.tphsurvey.chkmkt.com/?e=286267&h=BF3A606731635E9&l=en>

- Your feedback will be used to help us understand how useful the session was, improve future webinars and will not be identifiable.



# Questions?

