

RENFREW COUNTY AND DISTRICT HEALTH UNIT

COVID-19 Vaccine Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs): What You Need to Know About a Third Dose or Booster Dose

Eligibility and Timing

1. Who is currently eligible to receive a third dose of the COVID-19 vaccine?

The Ontario Government has been offering third doses of the COVID-19 vaccine to the most vulnerable Ontarians. For the full list of eligibility, visit the Ontario Ministry of Health's [COVID-19 Vaccine Third Dose Recommendations](#). Individuals who are eligible (immunocompromised or receiving hemodialysis or peritoneal dialysis) should receive their third dose at least 8 weeks (56 days) after their second dose. However, exact timing should be decided with their HCP.

2. Who is currently eligible to receive a third dose (booster) of the COVID-19 vaccine?

The following population groups are also eligible to receive a third dose (booster) only after waiting 3 months (84 days) since they had their second dose. Check your proof of vaccination records to see when you received your second dose by visiting <https://covid-19.ontario.ca/proof-covid-19-vaccination>.

- Health care workers and designated essential caregivers in congregate settings (including long-term care home and retirement home staff and designated caregivers). Please note that third doses for health care workers are recommended, not required (no need to rush for the third dose).
- First Nation, Inuit and Métis adults and their non-Indigenous household members.
- Individuals aged 50 and older (born in 1971 or earlier). **Starting December 20th at 8:00 a.m., individuals 18 years of age and older will be eligible.**
- Individuals who received a complete series of a viral vector vaccine (two doses of the AstraZeneca vaccine or one dose of the Janssen vaccine).

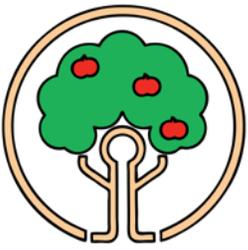
Residents who are eligible to book appointments for COVID-19 third dose vaccinations if at least eight weeks has passed since their second (last) dose include:

- Individuals who are immunocompromised
- Individuals who are receiving hemodialysis or peritoneal dialysis

3. How do I prove I am fully vaccinated?

Individuals can prove they are fully vaccinated by showing the physical or emailed receipt that was provided to them at the time of vaccination. [Vaccination receipts can also be downloaded or printed through the provincial portal](#) or by calling the Provincial Vaccine Booking Line at 1-833-943-3900. These versions of the vaccine receipts contain a watermark and a digital signature to deter forgery.

You are considered fully vaccinated if you have received:



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- the full series of a COVID-19 authorized by Health Canada, or any combination of such vaccines (two doses of Moderna, Pfizer-BioNTech, AstraZeneca, including COVISHIELD) in any combination or one dose of Janssen (Johnson & Johnson)
- one or two doses of a COVID-19 vaccine not authorized by Health followed by one dose of a COVID-19 mRNA vaccine authorized by Health Canada
- three doses of a COVID-19 vaccine not authorized by Health Canada
- your final dose of the COVID-19 at least 14 days before providing the proof of being fully vaccinated.

4. What do I need to confirm proof of eligibility for specific high-risk populations?

Vaccination appointments will be made using a trust model. Either Pfizer or Moderna vaccines may be used as a third dose (regardless of which COVID-19 vaccine was used in the primary series).

5. How will I know when/if it is my turn to receive a third dose?

Please continue to monitor the [RCDHU COVID-19 vaccine rollout webpage](#) for future updates and/or RCDHU's Facebook or Twitter.

Booking an Appointment

6. Do I need to book an appointment to get a third dose?

Currently, residents who are eligible to receive a third dose will need to book an appointment online by visiting this link: [COVID-19 & Influenza Vaccine Bookings](#). Residents can also ask family members or friends to book an appointment on their behalf if they are unable to access the online booking system, or they can call RCDHU at 613-732-9436 or toll-free 1-833-773-0004. For a list of clinics dates and times visit RCDHU's COVID-19 vaccine rollout webpage.

7. Do we get to choose which vaccine we get?

Some clinics will allow residents to choose which vaccine they get. This will be based on provincial distribution, availability to local regions and supply. Remember "the best vaccine, is the one that is available to you".

Precautions to take after receiving a vaccination

8. What are the side effects of the COVID-19 vaccines?



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Some people may experience moderate side effects from the vaccine that will likely resolve after a few days. Some of the symptoms are part of the body's response to developing immunity and indicate that the vaccine is working.

Common side effects include one or more of the following symptoms: pain where the needle was given, redness and swelling, tiredness, headache, muscle pain, joint pain, chills, mild fever, swollen glands (less frequently). These types of side effects are expected and indicate that the vaccine is working to produce protection. These side effects are more likely to occur after your second dose.

As with any medicines and vaccines, allergic reactions are rare but can occur after receiving a vaccine. If you are concerned about any reactions you experience after receiving the vaccine, contact your health care provider. You can also contact Renfrew County and District Health Unit (RCDHU) to ask questions or report an adverse reaction. Visit the Ministry of Health and Long-term Care [COVID-19 Vaccine-Relevant Information and Planning Resources](#).