

RCD COVID-19 Vaccine Communications Committee

For Immediate Release

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Vaccination And Boosters Are Still Recommended Following COVID-19 Infection

Renfrew County and District Health Unit (RCDHU) is urging residents not to cancel their vaccination appointments just because they have recently tested positive for COVID-19.

In fact, a booster dose of the vaccine can be received as soon as the isolation period has ended and all symptoms have resolved, said Acting Medical Officer of Health, Dr. Robert Cushman.

Dr. Cushman said that many people who have had two doses of the COVID-19 vaccine and then tested positive for Omicron are asking why they should bother with the third dose.

“Getting a booster as soon as possible after infection can provide additional protection against severe disease. While it’s likely that a breakthrough infection on top of two doses of vaccine offers high protection against Omicron, there are still some cases of Delta around and if another variant comes along, a booster will offer better protection than a previous infection,” Dr. Cushman said.

What to do if you develop COVID-19 symptoms right before you’re scheduled to get your third dose?

“Based on current guidance, we are assuming that those who have symptoms most likely have COVID-19, which means, in the midst of an active infection, you should not get your vaccination to prevent further spread and help protect those around you,” Dr. Cushman said. It is best to reschedule your vaccination when your symptoms have resolved and your isolation period is complete.

“Vaccines aren’t typically given to those who are ill because the immune system tends to have a reduced effect in producing the desired response,” said Dr. Cushman. “It can also lead to confusion over whether any side-effects are related to the vaccine or a progression of the illness”, continued Dr. Cushman.

For all the latest information about testing, isolation, self-monitoring and other items related to COVID-19, visit the Renfrew County and District Health Unit website at www.rcdhu.com.

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