



# RENFREW COUNTY AND DISTRICT HEALTH UNIT

## COVID-19 Vaccine Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs): What You Need to Know About a Booster Doses

### Eligibility and Timing

#### 1. Who is currently eligible to receive a booster 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 booster dose 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>.

- Individuals aged 12 and older. Youth aged 12-17 must wait 6 months (168 days) after a second dose.

#### 3. Who is currently eligible to receive a second booster dose of the COVID-19 vaccine?

The following population groups are eligible to receive a second booster dose, only after waiting 5 months (84 days) since they had their first booster dose. For the detailed eligibility list, visit <https://bit.ly/3noK1gj>. 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>.

- Individuals 60 years of age and older, as well as First Nation, Inuit and Métis individuals and their non-indigenous household members aged 18 and over.

#### 4. 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.

### 5. 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).

### 6. How will I know when/if it is my turn to receive a booster 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

### 7. Do I need to book an appointment to get a booster dose?

Depending on whether the specific clinic is accepting walk-ins, residents must otherwise book an appointment online at <https://covid19.ontariohealth.ca/> or can ask family members or friends to book an appointment on their behalf if they are unable to access the online booking system. They can also call the Provincial Vaccine Booking Line at 1-833-943-3900. For a list of clinics dates and times visit RCDHU's COVID-19 vaccine rollout webpage.

Anyone who does not have an Ontario Health Card and is unable to book their vaccination appointment online must call RCDHU's COVID-19 Vaccination Information Line at 613-732-9436 or toll free at 1-833-773-0004.

### 8. 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".



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### Precautions to take after receiving a vaccination

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

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](#).