

Public Health Alert

To: Ottawa Physicians and Nurse Practitioners
Date: October 7, 2024
From: Dr. Trevor Arnason, Deputy Medical Officer of Health
Subject: Fall 2024 COVID-19 Local Vaccine Availability and Recommendations

Dear Colleagues,

Ottawa Public Health (OPH) has received a limited supply of Moderna KP.2 COVID-19 vaccine and has begun distributing initial doses to hospitals and Long-Term Care Homes, as per Provincial direction. The Pfizer KP.2 shipment is expected mid-October. Pharmacies have also started to receive doses to provide immunization to eligible high-risk populations. As the provincial supply is replenished, priority will be given to retirement homes and other congregate settings due to the high-risk nature of these settings during the respiratory season.

OPH plans to start distributing KP.2-containing COVID-19 mRNA vaccine products to community COVID-19 vaccine providers in mid-October and providers can expect to start receiving orders the week of October 21st, as supply permits.

Vaccine Availability

Participating pharmacies and participating healthcare providers will continue to provide COVID-19 vaccine this fall. Your patients can refer to the Ministry of Health [pharmacy locator](#) to locate the nearest pharmacy administering the COVID-19 vaccine. Starting mid-October, Ottawa Public Health (OPH) will begin offering the COVID-19 vaccine to high-risk clients through local community clinics and Neighbourhood Health and Wellness Hubs. OPH clinics are for individuals facing barriers in accessing COVID-19 vaccines through pharmacies or healthcare providers such as young children and newcomers without an Ontario Health Insurance Plan (OHIP). Clients can book and appointment through our community clinics via the [Provincial Booking system](#).

COVID-19 Vaccine Recommendations

As per the [Ministry of Health COVID-19 Guidance](#), a dose of a KP.2 containing COVID-19 vaccination is strongly recommended for previously vaccinated and unvaccinated individuals who are at increased risk of SARS-CoV-2 infection or severe illness due to COVID-19. For previously vaccinated individuals the recommended interval is 6 months

from the last COVID-19 vaccine dose, and a minimum of 3 months from the last dose may be used.

The initial supply of the COVID-19 vaccine is reserved for individuals meeting [high-risk criteria](#) as defined by the Ministry of Health. Starting October 28, 2024, all other previously vaccinated and unvaccinated individuals (6 months of age and older) who are not at increased risk of SARS-CoV-2 infection or severe illness from COVID-19, are recommended to and may receive COVID-19 vaccine. Of note, people who provide essential community services are particularly recommended to receive COVID-19 vaccine.

Individuals who have not been previously vaccinated may use the KP.2 containing COVID-19 vaccine to initiate the series. Please refer to the Ministry of Health's [Health Care Provider Fact Sheet: COVID-19 Vaccine](#) for detailed COVID-19 vaccine recommendations based on vaccine history and immune status of the individual.

Co-Administration

The COVID-19 vaccines may be given at the same time with other vaccines, or at any time before or after other non-COVID-19 vaccines (live or non-live vaccines), including influenza vaccine and respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) vaccine.

If multiple injections are to be given at the same visit, separate limbs should be used if possible. Alternatively, the injections may be administered into the same muscle separated by at least 2.5 cm (1”).