

Public Health Alert

To: Ottawa Physicians and Nurse Practitioners
Date: September 27, 2024
From: Dr. Trevor Arnason, Deputy Medical Officer of Health
Subject: **Ontario's COVID-19 Vaccine Program – 2024/2025**

Dear Colleagues,

The Province has announced [Ontario's COVID-19 Vaccine Program – 2024/2025](#).

Attached is a letter from the Chief Medical Officer of Health of Ontario, Dr. Kieran Moore, outlining the provincial program.

The Province has also provided a number of resources for healthcare providers on their [COVID-19 Vaccine Program webpage](#).

Ministry of Health

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September 26, 2024

RE: Ontario's COVID-19 Vaccine Program – 2024/2025

Dear Health Care Provider/Health Care Setting/Congregate Living Setting

The following letter provides details on the 2024/2025 COVID-19 vaccine program. Thank you for your continued support and for the tremendous work that you have done to support the COVID-19 vaccine program, which has been a great success for Ontario. Your continued efforts and support for vaccination are very important as we move into the fall.

With the COVID-19 vaccine program approaching for the 2024/2025 fall season, the Ministry of Health is providing you with details regarding the upcoming program. COVID-19 vaccination will be very important this fall with the co-circulation of respiratory diseases, such as influenza and respiratory syncytial virus (RSV), to protect the health of individuals, families, and communities as well as mitigate impacts on our healthcare system.

The ministry is also launching RSV and influenza vaccination campaigns for the 2024/2025 respiratory illness season. These programs will help to reduce the risk of severe illness that could arise from COVID-19, RSV, and influenza this season.

Information on Universal Influenza Immunization Program (UIIP) and RSV prevention programs, including infant, high-risk children and adult has been shared.

The purpose of this letter and the attached fact sheets is to provide details on the available COVID-19 vaccine products for the 2024/2025 season, as well as information on vaccine supply, distribution and roll-out of the program.

2024/2025 COVID-19 Vaccine Products

The publicly funded COVID-19 vaccines available for the 2024/2025 season include:

1. Moderna KP.2 for those ≥ 6 months of age
2. Pfizer KP.2 for those ≥ 12 years of age

Please see the [COVID-19 vaccine program](#) website for the most up to date vaccine guidance and storage and handling guidance.

Co-administration

As we move into the fall and prepare for another respiratory season, we ask that you please consider, as appropriate, co-administration of COVID-19 vaccine, influenza vaccine, and RSV vaccine or monoclonal antibody products whenever possible and appropriate.

If given by injection at the same time 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"). Different immunization equipment (needle and syringe) must be used for each immunization.

Provincial Vaccine Supply and Distribution Process

Each year the ministry receives its supply of COVID-19 vaccine in multiple shipments from the manufacturers. COVID-19 vaccines will be distributed by McKesson Canada Corporation or Shoppers Drug Mart Inc. to pharmacies across Ontario and by public health units to various health settings such as hospitals, long-term care homes, and retirement homes.

Distribution of the COVID-19 vaccines in Ontario is described below:

When	Distribution Initiated To
Starting Sept. 26, as vaccine becomes available per local distribution schedules	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Pharmacies for high-risk and priority populations
Week of Sept. 30, as vaccine becomes available per local distribution schedules	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Hospitals and long-term care homes• Retirement homes, congregate care settings and other settings with high-risk populations• Health care providers and all other settings who provide care for high-risk and priority populations

Timing of Immunization

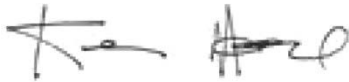
COVID-19 vaccine doses received should be prioritized for administration as follows:

When immunizations start	Populations
Week of Sept 30, as soon as vaccine is available	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Hospitals and residents and staff of congregate living settings (e.g., chronic care facilities, retirement homes)• High-risk and priority populations as detailed in the fact sheet
Oct. 28	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• General population

For more information about the COVID-19 vaccine program, including the fact sheet, please visit our [COVID-19 vaccine program](#) website.

Thank you for efforts and support in the delivery of the 2024/2025 COVID-19 vaccine program.

Sincerely,



Kieran Michael Moore, MD, CCFP(EM), FCFP, MPH, DTM&H, FRCPC FCAHS
Chief Medical Officer of Health