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<p><b>IN THIS ISSUE:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Revised: Ministry of Health Guidance for Routine &amp; Catch-Up Immunization Services</li> <li>New: Novavax (Nuvaxovid) XBB COVID-19 vaccine</li> <li>End of Free Vaccine Delivery Period</li> <li>Increasing iGAS cases</li> </ul>	<p><b>FROM:</b> Mary Choi, MD MPH CCFP FRCPC Associate Medical Officer of Health</p>
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<p><b>Key Messages:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Revised Guidance for Routine &amp; Catch-Up. Immunization Services available for your review.</li> <li>Update: extended eligibility for some publicly funded vaccines.</li> <li>The Novavax (Nuvaxovid) XBB COVID-19 vaccine is available at select Peel pharmacies.</li> <li>Free vaccine delivery has ended.</li> <li>Increased invasive Group A Streptococcal disease (iGAS) in Ontario.</li> </ul>
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Shingles vaccine can be ordered at:  
<https://www.peelregion.ca/health/professionals/V-07-629.htm>

### High Risk Programs- Extended Eligibility

Eligibility under the HPV-9, 4CMenB and Men-C-ACYW135 high risk programs has been extended. These individuals will remain eligible for missed doses until **December 31, 2024**.

### High Risk Programs- Extended Eligibility

Vaccine	Age Group	High Risk Criteria	Extended Cohorts
<b>HPV-9</b> (Gardasil)	Males (MSM) 9 to 26 years	Refer to Table 3: High Risk Vaccine Programs of the publicly funded schedule: <a href="https://www.health.gov.on.ca/en/pro/programs/immunization/schedule.aspx">https://www.health.gov.on.ca/en/pro/programs/immunization/schedule.aspx</a>	Males (MSM) born in 1993, 1994, 1995, 1996 and 1997
<b>4CMenB</b> (Bexsero)	2 months to 17 years		Individuals born in 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005 and 2006
<b>Men-C-ACYW135</b> (Menactra, Nimenrix)	9 months to 55 years		Individuals born in 1964, 1965, 1966, 1967 and 1968

### Revised: Ministry of Health Guidance for Routine & Catch-Up Immunization Services

The Ministry of Health has updated the Guidance for Routine & Catch-up Immunization Services, available at:

<https://www.health.gov.on.ca/en/pro/programs/immunization/schedule.aspx>

It includes guidance related to:

- Groups requiring routine immunizations
- Provision of catch-up vaccines for missed doses (includes information on pneumococcal and tetanus-containing vaccines)
- Extended vaccine eligibility for some publicly funded vaccines

### Shingles Vaccine- Extended Eligibility

Shingles vaccine (Shingrix) is publicly funded for individuals 65-70 years of age.

- Eligibility has been extended for **individuals born in 1949, 1950, 1951, 1952 and 1953**. Prioritize patients in this age group. They will remain eligible for missed doses until **December 31, 2024**.

To order vaccines under the high-risk programs, requisition forms are available on the PPH Health Professional website:

<https://www.peelregion.ca/health/professionals/immunization.htm>

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## **School-Based Immunization Program- Extended Eligibility**

The Guidance for Routine and Catch-Up Immunization Services provides information related to extended eligibility for students that did not complete their school-based immunizations in previous academic years.

**Note:** The following birth cohorts remain eligible until **August 31, 2024:**

Hepatitis B

- Born in 2005 or 2006 (males and females)

HPV-9

- Born in 2002, 2003 (females only)
- Born in 2004, 2005 or 2006 (males and females)

Direct patients eligible for school-based immunizations to: <https://peelregion.ca/health/vaccinations/school-program/>

## **NEW: NOVAVAX (Nuvaxovid) XBB COVID-19 vaccine**

On December 5, 2023, Health Canada authorized the updated Novavax (Nuvaxovid) XBB COVID-19 vaccine for use for individuals 12 years of age and older.

The Novavax (Nuvaxovid) XBB COVID-19 vaccine is a an option for individuals unable, due to contraindications, or not willing to receive an mRNA COVID-19 vaccine.

The Novavax (Nuvaxovid) XBB COVID-19 vaccine may be given to people who have been previously vaccinated or who have not been previously vaccinated.

On December 22, 2023, the Ministry of Health updated the COVID-19 Vaccine Administration Guidance with information on the Novavax (Nuvaxovid) XBB COVID-19 vaccine. The full document can be accessed at: <https://www.ontario.ca/page/covid-19-vaccine-program>

The Novavax (Nuvaxovid) XBB COVID-19 vaccine will only be available at select pharmacies in Peel.

For more information, visit:

<https://peelregion.ca/health/vaccinations/covid-19/>

## **End of Free Vaccine Delivery Period**

Free Influenza and COVID-19 vaccine delivery service has concluded.

**COVID-19 Vaccine:** For COVID-19 vaccines, pickup is available exclusively at our office at 7120 Hurontario St., Mississauga. Alternatively, enrolled individuals in our paid vaccine delivery service can opt for paid delivery.

**Influenza Vaccine:** For influenza vaccines, choose pickup at any designated location or opt for paid delivery if you are part of our vaccine delivery service.

Want to enroll in the paid vaccine and STI medication delivery program?

- Fax a completed registration form to (905) 565-9874
- Registration forms are available at: <https://www.peelregion.ca/health/professionals/pdfs/CP-Account-Activation-Form.pdf>
- The 2024 paid delivery schedule is now available for January 2024 to June 2024: <https://www.peelregion.ca/health/professionals/tools/updates2023/CP%20Courier%20Schedule%20-%20Jan%20to%20Jun%202024.pdf>

## **Increasing iGAS in Ontario**

On December 15 the Ministry of Health issued a memorandum regarding an increase in iGAS cases in Ontario compared to Fall 2022. Highest rates are in adults 65 years and older and children 1 to 9. The Region of Peel is experiencing similar trends. The overlap with respiratory season is concerning, as recent viral infection is a risk factor for iGAS. Please review Peel Public Health's June HPU for additional information on signs and symptoms, testing, clinical management and reporting of iGAS:

<https://www.peelregion.ca/health/professionals/tools/updates2023/2023-06-02-update-vol-16-no-14.pdf>