

<p><b>IN THIS ISSUE:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ New: High Risk Hepatitis B vaccine order form</li> <li>▪ New: Hepatitis B vaccine requisition for Hepatitis B contacts and Hepatitis C cases</li> <li>▪ Updated: Ministry of Health COVID-19 vaccine guidance</li> <li>▪ New: Vaccine Order Form coming soon</li> </ul>	<p><b>FROM:</b> Mary Choi, MD MPH CCFP FRCPC Associate Medical Officer of Health</p>
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**Key Messages:**

- There are two separate requisition forms for ordering Hepatitis B:
  - High Risk Hepatitis B vaccine requisition
  - Hepatitis B vaccine requisition for Hepatitis B contacts and Hepatitis C cases
- The COVID-19 vaccine guidance document has been updated.
- Peel Public Health will soon be launching a new online vaccine order form.

Effective immediately, there are 2 different forms when ordering Hepatitis B vaccines. Please choose the correct form when placing your order.

Use only the **updated** Hepatitis B vaccine order forms. Outdated forms will require resubmission.

**New: High Risk Hepatitis B vaccine order form**

This newly updated form is now available at: <https://www.peelregion.ca/health/professionals/immunization.htm>. Electronic submission of this fillable PDF form is preferred. It can also be printed and faxed to Vaccine Management at 905-565-9874.

**Vaccine eligibility criteria and doses:**

The High-Risk Eligibility Criteria can be reviewed on page 7 of the Publicly Funded Immunization Schedule: <https://www.ontario.ca/files/2024-01/moh-publicly-funded-immunization-schedule-en-2024-01-23.pdf>.

- Children <7 years old whose families have immigrated from countries of high prevalence for Hepatitis B virus (HBV) and who may be exposed to HBV carriers via their extended families.
- History of sexually transmitted diseases

- Intravenous drug use/Methadone use
- Liver disease (chronic)
- Awaiting liver transplants
- Men who have sex with men
- Multiple sex partners
- Needle stick injuries in a non-health care setting
- On renal dialysis or those with diseases requiring frequent receipt of blood products (e.g. haemophilia)

When completing the form, you must choose only one high risk criteria. Please do not add any other diagnosis/or high-risk criteria to the form, as this will not be accepted.

Health care providers approved for Hepatitis B **bulk** orders, please provide the number of doses required for adult, renal, or pediatric patients.

**New: Hepatitis B vaccine requisition for Hepatitis B contacts and Hepatitis C cases**

This new form is intended for Hepatitis B (HB) contacts and Hepatitis C cases only and **cannot** be submitted online. It must be faxed to the Hepatitis team at 289-901-0184. It can be found at: <https://www.peelregion.ca/health/professionals/immunization.htm>

**Vaccine eligibility criteria and doses:**

- Neonates born to HBV-positive carriers should receive HBIG and 1<sup>st</sup> dose in the hospital. Infant(s) will require (2-3 doses) based on birth weight to complete series.
- Household and close/sexual contacts of HBV chronic carriers and acute cases (3 doses).

- Individuals with hepatitis C (3 doses).
- Booster dose(s) are available for individuals who did not develop anti-HBs after the initial HB vaccine series and are at higher risk of HBV infection or complications.

If your patient is immunocompromised a higher dose will be provided as per CIG recommendations. When completing the form, indicate the **total number of doses** required to complete the series.

To speak to a public health nurse about vaccine eligibility, please call us at (905)799-7700.

### **Updated: Ministry of Health COVID-19 vaccine guidance**

The Ministry of Health COVID-19 vaccine guidance was updated on April 8, 2024.

### **Summary of Changes**

- Revision of strength of the recommendation for those who are high-risk to receive a spring COVID-19 dose.
- Revision to Out of Province and Out of Country Vaccines.
- Revision of Appendix B and Appendix C to include an additional group: Individuals 5 years and older who are immunocompetent and high-risk and to clarify recommendations.

For more information related to the COVID-19 spring campaign, please refer to the April 3, 2024, issue of the Health Professional Update.

<https://www.peelregion.ca/health/professionals/updates/2024/2024-04-03-Spring-Campaign-Vol-17-No-10.pdf>

COVID-19 vaccine guidance documents can be accessed at:

<https://www.ontario.ca/page/covid-19-vaccine-program>

### **New: Vaccine Order Form coming soon**

Peel Public Health is excited to be launching a new user-authenticated vaccine order form. The new order form will require health care provider sign-in and will streamline the process of ordering publicly funded routine vaccines. We will be sending a survey shortly to gather primary user information to establish our database of providers ordering vaccines to prevent order interruptions. Stay tuned for more details and information!