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**Key Messages:**

- COVID-19 vaccines are now available in Ontario for the 2024/25 respiratory illness season.
- High-risk and priority populations can start receiving COVID-19 and flu vaccines as soon as they become available.
- Starting October 28, 2024, COVID-19 vaccines will be available for everyone 6 months of age and older.
- Infants and small children under 5 years of age can receive their COVID-19 and flu vaccines from Peel Public Health vaccine clinics.
- Onboarded physician-led clinics can order the COVID-19 vaccines from Peel Public Health.
- PPH invites physicians and health care providers to a CME certified webinar: A re-orientation of PPH programs and services on October 23, 2024.

The latest approved COVID-19 mRNA vaccines provide greater protection against the currently circulating KP.2 subvariants.

Products	Type	Age group
Moderna Spikevax KP.2	mRNA	6 months of age and older
Pfizer-BioNTech Comirnaty KP.2	mRNA	12 years and older*

*\*There will be no Pfizer product available for the younger age groups.*

**Priority groups**

Initial doses are being prioritized to the following high-risk and priority populations. These groups should receive the vaccine as soon as they become available:

- Residents and staff of congregate living settings
- People 65 years of age or older
- All pregnant individuals
- All children 6 months to 4 years of age
- Members of racialized and other equity-deserving communities
- Individuals in or from First Nations, Métis or Inuit communities
- Health care workers
- First responders
- Individuals with significant exposure to birds and mammals (such as poultry, livestock, slaughterhouse and processing plant workers, wildlife officers/researchers, and veterinarians (due to risk of influenza)
- Individuals 6 months of age and older who have underlying [medical conditions](#) that place them at higher risk of severe COVID-19, including children with complex health needs

**2024/25 COVID-19 fall/winter campaign**

COVID-19 vaccines are now available in Ontario for the 2024/25 respiratory illness season. Co-administration of COVID-19 and influenza vaccine is strongly encouraged as product availability and eligibility timelines are the same. Refer to recent Influenza HPU [September 27, 2024; Vol. 17, No. 28](#).

Vaccines are being distributed, as they become available, to long-term care homes, congregate living settings, pharmacies, primary care providers and other providers.

Peel Public Health is planning to offer COVID-19 and influenza vaccine clinics for infants and children aged 6 months to under 5 years starting mid-October. More details will be available soon on the Peel Region [website](#).

COVID-19 and flu vaccines will be available to the general population beginning October 28, 2024.

Individuals previously vaccinated against COVID-19 should wait at least 6 months since their last dose, although a minimum interval of 3 months may be considered.

For individuals who have had a recent confirmed SARS-CoV-2 infection, it is recommended to consider delaying vaccination for 3 to 6 months.

Immunization guidance documents and additional resources to help support vaccination, reduce needle fear, and prepare individuals for vaccination are available on the [COVID-19 Vaccine Program](#) page.

### **Novavax supply update**

The non-mRNA COVID-19 vaccine Novavax (Nuvaxovid) will not be available in Ontario for the 2024/2025 COVID-19 vaccine program. Patients unable to receive an mRNA vaccine should be advised to discuss alternative treatment options, including the use of Paxlovid, to help reduce the duration and severity of illness.

### **Ordering vaccine**

Onboarded Physician-led clinics can now [order](#) the COVID-19 vaccine through the Health Professional Portal. When placing your order, the available COVID-19 products will be listed.

To prevent any delays in accessing your COVaxON account during the campaign, please log into your COVaxON account now to confirm it is still active. If you require support with user reactivations or deactivations, please reach out to [zzgcovaxonpeelauthorizedcontactlist@peelregion.ca](mailto:zzgcovaxonpeelauthorizedcontactlist@peelregion.ca) as soon as possible to ensure sufficient time for reactivation.

If you would like to begin administering COVID-19 vaccines in your office, please visit the [COVID-19 vaccine clinic onboarding](#) page for more information.

Please allow 2-3 business days after completing the onboarding form for next steps.

### **Reminder: Peel Public Health (PPH) is hosting a physician and healthcare provider education session**

PPH, in collaboration with the Mississauga and Central West Primary Care Networks, is hosting a CME certified webinar. The education session aims to reconnect PPH and Peel physicians/health care providers post pandemic. This is an opportunity to gain valuable insights into public health programs and services relevant to your practice.

#### **Details:**

- Session name: Community Health Care Provider Education Session (ID-202871)
- Date: October 23, 2024
- Time: 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.
- Where: Virtual event (**Microsoft Teams**)
- Earn 2 MainPro+ credits
- [Register](#) for the event