

<p>IN THIS ISSUE:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> COVID-19 testing updates Influenza and COVID-19 vaccines available for general population Marburg virus disease outbreak declared in Rwanda 	<p>FROM: Rebecca Shalansky, MD MPH CCFP FRCPC Associate Medical Officer of Health</p>
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Key Messages:

- The Ministry of Health has changed COVID-19 testing to a test-to-treat approach.
- Health care providers can still order rapid antigen tests (RATs) for distribution to high-risk patients.
- The influenza and COVID-19 vaccines are now available to everyone 6 months of age and older.
- Co-administration of influenza and COVID-19 vaccines whenever possible is encouraged.
- Physicians can onboard to provide COVID-19 vaccines to their patients.
- The Health Ministry of Rwanda has declared an outbreak of Marburg virus disease (MVD).
- Clients suspected of having MVD should be reported to Peel Public Health for immediate assessment and follow-up.

COVID-19 testing updates

The Ministry of Health has updated COVID-19 test eligibility (inclusive of both rapid antigen tests and PCR testing) based on advice from Ontario’s Chief Medical Officer of Health to advance a test-to-treat approach. Effective immediately, publicly funded COVID-19 testing is only available to:

- Ontarians eligible for COVID-19 treatment (i.e., symptomatic individuals who are immunocompromised, or 65 years of age or older, or those with [high-risk medical conditions](#)).
- People in certain high-risk settings including hospitals and congregate living settings with medically and socially vulnerable individuals to support outbreak prevention and management.

The rapid antigen test (RAT) ordering pathway for eligible health system partners will continue through the [PPE Supply Portal](#). Health care providers may order RATs and distribute to patients at high-risk of severe COVID-19 outcomes. The distribution of RATs under this program is voluntary and will not be

reimbursed by the Ontario Government. RATs ordered from the PPE Supply Portal, if distributed, must be distributed free-of-charge.

While public health units are no longer funded to order or distribute RATs, Peel Public Health continues to have a small supply for public distribution. While supplies last, patients can pick up tests at the following Service Peel counters:

- [10 Peel Centre Drive, Suite B, Brampton](#)
- [7120 Hurontario Street, Mississauga](#)

Caledon residents can contact the Town of Caledon directly for non-regional pick-up locations and supply.

More information about COVID-19 testing eligibility and test access can be found at the [Ontario.ca’s COVID-19 testing and treatment](#) webpage.

Influenza and COVID-19 vaccines available for general population

The influenza and COVID-19 vaccines are now available to everyone 6 months of age and older.

Co-administration of influenza and COVID-19 vaccines whenever possible is encouraged.

Primary care providers are strongly encouraged to order and administer respiratory season vaccines to their patients in their clinics. Vaccines are also available at participating pharmacies and [public health clinics](#).

Ordering vaccines

Influenza and COVID-19 vaccines can be [ordered](#) through the Health Professional Portal.

Please email any questions to VMPIOrderRequests@peelregion.ca. We will respond to your questions within 2 business days.

COVID-19 vaccination onboarding

Physicians who are interested in offering COVID-19 vaccines to their patients can complete the [COVID-19 onboarding process](#).

Novavax COVID-19 vaccine 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.

COVID-19 vaccine availability by age group

Age group	Product
6 months and over	Moderna Spikevax KP.2
≥12 years of age	Pfizer-BioNTech Comirnaty KP.2

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.

Individuals who have had a recent test-confirmed SARS-CoV-2 infection are recommended to consider delaying vaccination for 3 to 6 months.

Influenza vaccine availability by age group

Age Group	QIV	QIV-HD	TIV-adj
	FluLaval Tetra Fluzone Quad Flucelvax Quad	Fluzone HD Quad	Fluad
6 months to 64 years	✓	Not applicable	
≥65 years of age	✓	✓	✓

QIV = Quadrivalent inactivated influenza vaccine

QIV-HD = Quadrivalent inactivated influenza vaccine - High-dose

TIV-adj = Trivalent inactivated influenza vaccine-adjuvanted

For more information about influenza vaccines, please refer to the previous [Health Professionals Update](#).

Peel Public Health clinics

Peel Public Health is offering COVID-19 and influenza vaccine clinics to infants and children 6 months to 4 years of age. Beyfortus for RSV prevention is also available to eligible infants born in 2024. Additional information is available on our [website](#).

Program information and guidance documents

[COVID-19 Vaccine Program](#)

[Universal Influenza Immunization Program](#)

Marburg virus disease outbreak declared in Rwanda

On September 27, 2024, the Health Ministry of Rwanda declared an outbreak of Marburg virus disease (MVD).

MVD is a viral hemorrhagic fever caused by an infection with Marburg virus and may result in serious illness and death. Both Marburg and Ebola virus belong to the *Filoviridae* family and current evidence suggests these viruses have similar characteristics in terms of transmission and infection. As such, guidance, [IPAC measures](#), tools and resources developed for Ebola disease are appropriate to use for Marburg virus disease.

For more information on the clinical manifestations of and testing for Marburg virus disease, visit Public Health Agency of Canada's [Marburg virus disease for Health Care Professionals](#) webpage.

Reporting Requirements

Marburg virus disease is a reportable disease under the *Health Protection and Promotion Act*. Report patients under investigation for MVD immediately to Peel Public Health at 905-799-7700. Do not wait for laboratory confirmation.