



# Immunization Services During COVID-19

Since March 2020, numerous measures have been implemented to reduce the transmission of COVID-19. These measures have impacted vaccines being administered to individuals and communities which may increase the risk for illness related to potential outbreaks of vaccine preventable diseases.

## The importance of continued immunization

To ensure the safety of our communities, it is important to maintain a high level of herd immunity. This is achieved through continual immunization of individuals against vaccine preventable diseases. Routine vaccination is an essential service and immunization should be considered a high priority. By continuing to provide routine vaccinations according to the Ontario's Publicly Funded Immunization Schedule, health care providers play an essential role in reducing unnecessary medical visits, hospitalizations and the overall cost to our health care system.

For further guidance, please refer to the Ministry of Health [Guidance for Immunization Services During COVID-19](#) (also found on [www.durham.ca/hcp](http://www.durham.ca/hcp))

This document provides general guidance for the following immunization related topics:

- Planning Considerations
- Infection Prevention and Control
- Screening
- Providing Immunization Services
- Provision of Catch-Up Vaccines for Missed Doses
- General Timing of Vaccine Administration
- Vaccine Eligibility – Missed Doses

**We highly encourage all health care providers to continue to offer immunizations to all eligible individuals.** Information about influenza vaccine will be shared as soon as it is available.

September 16, 2020

