



Durham Region Health Department FAX about...

For Health Care Professionals



COVID-19 Vaccines Available Now for High-Risk Groups

The COVID-19 vaccine program has **transitioned to an annual program with guidance issued each fall for the September to August respiratory season** with immunizations provided at [specified schedules and timing](#). Vaccines are available now for high-risk groups and priority populations.

Eligibility

Individuals in **High-Risk Group 1** should receive a vaccine in the **fall AND spring**:

- Adults 80 years and older; 65 to 79 years of age **should** receive a dose now and **may** receive an additional dose in the spring
- Adult residents of long-term care homes and other congregate living settings for seniors
- Individuals 6 months of age and older who are [moderately to severely immunocompromised](#) (due to specific underlying condition or treatment)
- Individuals 55 years and older who identify as First Nations, Inuit, or Metis and their non-Indigenous household members who are 55 years and older

Individuals in **High-Risk Group 2** should receive a vaccine **in the fall only**:

- Residents in long-term care homes and other congregate living settings aged 17 years and under
- Pregnant individuals
- Individuals from First Nations, Métis and Inuit communities who are aged 54 years and under
- Members of underserved communities
- Health care workers and other care providers in facilities and community settings as [per NACI](#)

The following **priority** populations **may** receive a vaccine **in the fall**:

- Children 6 months to 4 years of age
- Individuals with significant exposure to birds or mammals through interactions with birds or mammals (e.g. poultry, livestock, slaughterhouse/processing plant workers, wildlife officers/researchers, and veterinarians)

General population, 6 months of age and older, who do not belong to the above populations may receive a vaccine in the fall, **starting on October 27, 2025**.

... over

905-668-2020 or 1-800-841-2729 | durham.ca/health

If you require this information in an accessible format, contact 1-800-841-2729.



Publicly Funded COVID-19 Vaccines for 2025/2026

Age Groups	Moderna Spikevax (LP.8.1) Vaccine Format	Pfizer-BioNTech Comirnaty (LP.8.1) Vaccine Format
6 months to 4 years	MDV	None
5 to 11 years	MDV	SDV
12 years of age and older	MDV and PFS	MDV and PFS

MDV - multidose vial

SDV - single dose vial

PFS - prefilled syringe

Not all vaccine brands and/or formats may always be available. **Products may be substituted based on supply. Health care providers should use the vaccine (according to the products' age indications) that is available unless the patient has a medical contraindication toward a specific vaccine.** Individuals unable to receive an mRNA vaccine may be eligible for other treatment options to reduce the duration and severity of illness.

The COVID-19 vaccines may be given at the same time with other vaccines, or at any time before or after other non-COVID-19 vaccines (live or non-live vaccines), including influenza vaccine, respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) vaccine and/or the RSV monoclonal antibody, Beyfortus®.

COVID-19 Vaccine Ordering and Availability

Onboarded sites providing COVID-19 vaccines can order vaccine using the [New Online Seasonal Vaccine Order Form](#) ([durham.ca/hcp](#) > Forms > Order). If your organization **would like to start offering COVID-19 vaccine**, visit [durham.ca/hcp](#) (Respiratory Illnesses>COVID-19) to start the onboarding process.

Individuals six months and older can receive the COVID-19 vaccine through participating health care providers and pharmacies. Visit the COVID-19 Pharmacy Locator Tool [ontario.ca/vaccine-locations/](#) for pharmacy locations. **Limited Health Department COVID-19 vaccine clinic appointments are available for eligible children 6 months to 4 years of age** who cannot be vaccinated at local pharmacies. Appointments will be available soon and can be booked online. Visit [www.durham.ca/COVIDvaccines](#) for more information.

Vaccine order notifications will be sent by email. Orders will be ready for **pick-up within 7–10 business days.** To prevent delays during pick up, please ensure your vaccine cooler is prepared according to [vaccine storage and handling guidelines](#).

For further information, including eligibility, immunization schedules, and Health Care Provider Fact Sheets, visit [durham.ca/hcp](#) (Respiratory illnesses > COVID-19 > Vaccine Information & Additional Resources).

October 2, 2025

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