

Ministry of Long-Term Care

Office of the Associate Deputy
Minister, Long-Term Care Policy
and Pandemic Response

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Ministère des Soins de longue durée

Bureau du sous-ministre associée
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pandémie pour les soins de longue durée

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June 15, 2022

MEMORANDUM TO: Long-Term Care Home Licensees

FROM: Erin Hannah
Associate Deputy Minister
LTC Policy and Pandemic Response

SUBJECT: COVID-19 Vaccine – Staying Up-to-Date
(Fourth Dose for Residents)

Thanks to the efforts of you, your teams, and various partners, over 78% of eligible long-term care residents have received their fourth dose of COVID-19 vaccine.

Vaccination has shown to be very effective against severe illness and outcomes. [Staying up-to-date with recommended doses](#) restores protection that wanes over time. More specifically, booster doses help to increase protection against symptomatic infection and severe outcomes, such as hospitalization and ICU admission.

The Office of the Chief Medical Officer of Health encourages you to promote fourth doses with the residents who have not yet received this booster and to **administer these booster doses by the end of June 2022** to maximize protection over the summer.

The following are some quick refreshers and resources to keep in mind as you continue your vaccine efforts.

Engage

- Speak to your residents and families about the benefits of the fourth dose.
 - Involve your Medical Director, Nurse Practitioner, or Pharmacist in vaccine education sessions directed to residents and families.
- Engage in direct one-on-one communication, as individualized discussions have been found to reduce vaccine concerns and improve vaccine uptake.
 - Ensure that vaccine information sharing is correct and true. Discourage misinformation from being circulated in your home.
- Communicate to residents and families in advance that a vaccine day/clinic is planned.
- Share the attached Vaccine Information with your residents and families.

Vaccinate

- Onboard to independently administer COVID-19 vaccines in your home to support onsite vaccination.
- Vaccinate residents even if an area of the home is in outbreak. Residents who have not had COVID-19 (tested positive or had symptoms) do not need to wait the 3 months for their booster.
- Tap into the Prevention and Containment Funding for eligible expenses to support onsite vaccination.

Resources:

- Information about the GO-VAXX mobile clinics, please refer to [COVID-19 GO-VAXX mobile clinic](#).
- For more information on fourth doses, please refer to the Ministry of Health's [COVID-19 Vaccine Booster Dose Recommendations](#).

As always, please reach out to MLTCPandemicResponse@ontario.ca for questions related to information provided.

Sincerely,

Erin Hannah
Associate Deputy Minister
LTC Policy and Pandemic Response

- c: Nancy Matthews, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Long-Term Care (MLTC)
Dr. Catherine Zahn, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Health (MOH)
Dr. Kieran Moore, Chief Medical Officer of Health
Dr. Barbara Yaffe, Associate Chief Medical Officer of Health
Alison Blair, Associate Deputy Minister, Pandemic Response and Recovery Division, Ministry of Health (MOH)
Michael Hillmer, Assistant Deputy Minister, Capacity Planning and Analytics Division, MOH/MLTC
Lisa Levin, Chief Executive Officer, AdvantAge Ontario
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Monika Turner, Association of Municipalities of Ontario
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