

Ministry of Long-Term Care

COVID-19 vaccine: fourth dose

Although the rate has significantly slowed, outbreaks of COVID-19 in long-term care homes continue to occur. Vaccines continue to provide the best defense for you and your loved ones.

Based on the recommendation of the Chief Medical Officer of Health, Ontario is encouraging **residents to receive their fourth dose as soon as they are eligible.**

Why a fourth dose is important

Vaccine effectiveness wanes over time. Your fourth dose restores protection against severe illness and outcomes, such as hospitalization and ICU admission. It is critical for residents to receive their fourth dose as soon as they are eligible for maximum protection.

When to get your fourth dose

Long-term care home residents are eligible to receive their fourth dose three months after receiving their third dose — or three months after having had COVID-19 (or a positive test result). This is because a vaccine booster protects against waning immunity and decreases the likelihood of symptomatic infection and severe outcomes.

If you are eligible but have not yet received your fourth dose, **you should get this vaccination before the end of June 2022** to maximize your protection over the summer.