

COVID-19 Update

For more information:
Canada.ca/coronavirus

Information for Indigenous communities:
Canada.ca/coronavirus-info-indigenous



National

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Health Canada authorizes the use of the Pfizer-BioNTech Comirnaty and Moderna Spikevax COVID-19 vaccine as a booster shot

Health Canada has authorized the use of the [Pfizer-BioNTech Comirnaty](#) and [Moderna Spikevax](#) COVID-19 vaccine as a booster shot. A COVID-19 booster shot is an extra dose of the vaccine given after completion of the primary vaccine series. The booster shot is designed to help people maintain their protection against COVID-19 over time.

Health Canada received Pfizer's submission to approve a booster on October 1, 2021, and Moderna's submission to approve a booster on October 6, 2021. After a thorough, independent review of the evidence, Health Canada has determined that the Comirnaty and Spikevax COVID-19 vaccine booster shot meets the department's stringent safety, efficacy and quality requirements. The booster is authorized for adults 18 years of age and older, to be used at least 6 months after an individual has completed their primary vaccine series. The Comirnaty COVID-19 booster is a full dose of the regular vaccine (30 mcg), while the Spikevax COVID-19 booster is a half dose of the regular vaccine (50 mcg).

Evidence continues to show that being fully vaccinated provides strong protection against serious illness, hospitalization and death from COVID-19, including against the Delta variants. People in Canada should consult their local public health guidance, informed by the [National Advisory Committee on Immunization](#), for details on which individuals or groups of people are recommended to receive a booster dose at this time.

For information on authorized vaccines and treatments in Canada, visit the [COVID-19 vaccines and treatments](#) portal.

Why wearing a mask continues to be important

The Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC) [currently recommends the use of well-constructed, well-fitting and properly worn non-medical masks](#) in community settings and the use of medical masks in limited circumstances.

Heading into the winter, there are many reasons to ensure that our top layer, or outer barrier layer of protection, is of the best quality and fit possible. Masks, in combination with other public health measures, remain an effective way to help prevent the spread of COVID-19. As we approach the winter months and spend more time indoors, this is especially important.

Masks may be recommended or required in public settings like stores, schools, businesses, workplaces or public transit. Even if it's not specifically required, and whether you are vaccinated or not, consider wearing a mask in shared spaces with people from outside of your immediate household, especially indoors, as an added layer of protection. [Updated information and tools](#) are available to help you in choosing a [well-constructed and well-fitted face masks](#) for optimal protection.

For the most up-to-date national information on COVID-19, visit [Indigenous Services Canada](#) website or the Government of Canada's Twitter and Facebook pages at @GCIndigenous and @GCIndigenousHealth

Regional

Third dose recommendations expanded to all adults aged 18 and over

Manitoba is expanding access to a third dose of the COVID-19 vaccine to all adults aged 18 or older. A minimum of 6 months is required between second and third doses, except in very limited circumstances. The province is recommending the third dose to individuals who are at an increased risk of serious illness from COVID-19, their caregivers and close contacts. Third doses can be provided at any location that offers the COVID-19 vaccine.

For more information about third dose recommendations, including dose intervals and where to get the vaccine, please visit [COVID-19 Vaccine Eligibility Criteria – Third Doses](#). Individuals who are unsure of when their second dose was received can [check their immunization record](#) on the province's website.

Eligibility for first and second doses of the COVID-19 vaccine continues to include anyone born on or before Dec. 31, 2009.

Rising COVID-19 case numbers bring added restrictions

Due to rising COVID-19 cases, increased community transmission and a growing strain on the health-care system, Manitoba is taking additional steps to help curb the spread of the virus in the fourth wave of the pandemic.

For the Southern Health-Santé Sud health region, effective November 13, the additional restrictions state that:

- religious gatherings are limited to 25 people unless the facility can physically divide the space into separate areas, in which case several cohorts of up to 25 can attend the same service. However, the total number of attendees at a service may not exceed 25 per cent of facility capacity, to a maximum of 250 people. Cohorts must not mingle, masks must be worn and physical distancing rules apply

Services restricted to fully immunized people and those under 12 who are not eligible for the vaccine may occur without capacity limits. The municipalities of Cartier, Headingley, Macdonald, Ritchot (Niverville-Ritchot), St. François Xavier and Taché that are geographically located in the Southern Health–Santé Sud health region, are exempt and considered to be part of the Winnipeg Capital Region.

Additionally, proof of at least one dose of vaccination, or a recent (within 72 hours) negative test result will be required for 12 to 17 year olds for indoor recreational sport province-wide:

- there will be a grace period until December 5 to allow individuals who are not yet fully immunized to comply, with the order to be in effect at 12:01 a.m. on December 6
- negative tests need to come from a participating pharmacy as provincial testing sites should only be accessed by symptomatic individuals, or those who are required to take a PCR test by public health

For full details and information concerning the added restrictions, please visit [Backgrounder – Changes to Public Health Orders](#).