

# Vaccine Confidence Info Bulletin

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As this issue of the Vaccine Confidence Info Bulletin is released, Canada is in the midst of the fourth wave of COVID-19. This new wave has brought an increase in hospitalizations mainly amongst unvaccinated populations. As of October 16, 87.55% of the eligible Canadian population had received at least one vaccine dose and 82.76% are fully vaccinated.<sup>1</sup> Despite a strong campaign start, the progress on COVID-19 vaccine uptake has significantly slowed. The pockets of vaccine hesitant that remain will be the most difficult to reach.

In order to reduce further morbidity and stress on health systems, engagement with individuals who are not vaccinated remains critical. To this end, the Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC) is providing you with the trusted resources to support you in promoting COVID-19 vaccination within your networks.

## FEATURED RESOURCES

### Vaccine Uptake among Youth

Young adults aged 18-39 years have the lowest vaccine coverage, on average, among all age-groups (83.40% with at least one-dose; 76.12% fully vaccinated).<sup>2</sup> High rates of vaccination coverage across the country is key to: controlling the spread of the virus, protecting people from severe illness, ending the crisis phase of the pandemic in Canada, and helping everyone return to normal activities.<sup>3</sup>

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**Get the word out - download PHAC's [COVID-19 Vaccine Communications Toolkit | Youth and Young Adults](#) to access ready-made content for you!** Featuring social media messaging, images, key messages, and more, this toolkit provides a wide variety of content that you can re-purpose, re-post or customize to reach your patients or audience in ways that will have the most impact.

## PHAC Webinars with the National Collaborating Centre for Infectious Disease and CANVax

Stay up to date with the latest information and guidance with PHAC webinars for health care providers on COVID-19 vaccines, hosted by the [National Collaborating Centre for Infectious Disease](#) (NCCID) and [CANVax](#). These webinars summarize and translate the rapidly evolving information about vaccines for health care providers to support vaccine confidence. Posted webinars provide advice to address vaccine hesitancy and clarifications regarding vaccine safety and efficacy.

Upcoming webinars will include: seasonal flu vaccines in the context of the ongoing pandemic; additional doses of COVID-19 for individuals who are immunocompromised; boosters for residents of long-term care facilities; and contraindications to COVID-19 vaccines.

<sup>1</sup> COVID-19 vaccination in Canada. COVID-19 vaccination in Canada [web page]. Retrieved from: <https://health-infobase.canada.ca/covid-19/vaccination-coverage/>

<sup>2</sup> Data on vaccination in age categories [web page]. Retrieved from: <https://health-infobase.canada.ca/covid-19/vaccination-coverage/>

<sup>3</sup> Vaccines for children: COVID-19 - Canada.ca [web page]. Retrieved from: <https://www.canada.ca/en/pub/health/news/2021/05/statement-from-the-chief-public-health-officer-of-canada-on-may-20-2021.html>

## COMMUNITY ACTION IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Through the [Immunization Partnership Fund](#) (IPF), PHAC provides funding for work in your community to counter mis- and dis-information and address vaccine uptake gaps in equity-deserving populations. Funded projects must build capacity of health care providers as vaccinators and vaccination promoters; support community-based COVID-19 education, outreach, and vaccine promotion; and build capacity for evidence-based vaccine communication.

### Featured IPF Recipient: BGC Canada

[BGC Canada](#) (formerly Boys and Girls Clubs of Canada) will use online education programs and videos to promote positive messaging about COVID-19 vaccines and foster evidence-based dialogue around vaccination among families of children and youth who access programming at local Clubs across Canada.

Through a partnership with Kids Boost Immunity, BGC Canada is developing online age-targeted vaccine and COVID-19 education programs. The program has a youth-targeted video contest and video production component to engage youth through social media. Evidence-based and multi-lingual resources that address misinformation will be developed for parents, guardians and the broader community. The [news release](#) contains more details.

Learn more about BGC Canada at [www.bgccan.com](http://www.bgccan.com) and check with your local club <https://www.bgccan.com/en/find-your-club/> in the coming months for additional resources for this project.

## FOR FRONT LINE HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS

Health care providers play a critical role in shaping their patients' decisions around vaccination for COVID-19. In light of the current complex and evolving information about vaccines and vaccination, a coordinated approach is needed to support Canadians in understanding the guidance and to prevent vaccine hesitancy caused by mis- or dis-information.

As our understanding of COVID-19 vaccines and vaccination information continues to evolve, stay up to date on [Health Canada](#) vaccine authorizations, and the latest guidance and updates from the [National Advisory Committee on Immunization \(NACI\)](#) and [PHAC](#).

### [Co-administration of Seasonal Flu Vaccine and COVID-19 Vaccines](#)

NACI recommends that COVID-19 vaccines may be given at the same time as, or any time before or after, other vaccines, including live, non-live, adjuvanted or unadjuvanted vaccines.

### [COVID-19 mRNA Booster Dose for Long-Term Care \(LTC\) Recommended](#)

For all LTC residents and seniors living in other congregate settings who have received a primary COVID-19 vaccine series, NACI recommends that a booster dose of an authorized mRNA COVID-19 vaccine should be offered, at an interval of at least six (6) months after completion of the primary series.

### [Additional doses for Individuals who are Immunocompromised](#)

NACI notes that evidence to date has shown that some individuals who are immunocompromised, including those receiving immunosuppressive therapies, may have a lower immune response to COVID-19 vaccines compared to the general population. A third dose of an mRNA COVID-19 vaccine can result in an increased immune response in those who are immunocompromised.

Individuals in the authorized age group who are moderately or severely immunocompromised:

- should receive three doses of an authorized mRNA vaccine if they have not yet been immunized
- should receive an additional dose of an authorized mRNA vaccine if they have previously received a complete primary series, including those who received a mixed vaccine schedule.

### [Youth/Adolescents and COVID-19 Vaccines](#)

NACI recommends that a complete series with an mRNA COVID-19 vaccine should be offered to adolescents aged 12 to 17 years, who do not have contraindications to the vaccine, with informed consent on the risk of myocarditis and pericarditis.

### [COVID-19 Vaccines Not Authorized by Health Canada](#)

PHAC COVID-19 immunization recommendations for individuals previously vaccinated with COVID-19 vaccines not authorized by

Health Canada are intended to support local, territorial, and provincial decision-making by public health departments and health care professionals on how to optimize protection for individuals who are planning to stay in Canada for longer periods of time to live, work or study (e.g., newcomers to Canada, returning Canadians, international students, longer stay foreign nationals).

The recommendations state that individuals who received a complete or incomplete course/series of a non-Health Canada authorized vaccine should be offered one additional dose of an mRNA vaccine. This additional mRNA vaccine dose is being recommended to provide optimal protection against COVID-19, as effectiveness of non-Health Canada authorized vaccines may vary.

### [Pregnancy & Breastfeeding and COVID-19 Vaccines](#)

NACI preferentially recommends that a complete vaccine series with an mRNA COVID-19 vaccine should be offered to individuals in the authorized age group who are pregnant or breastfeeding. Informed consent should include discussion about emerging evidence on the safety of mRNA COVID-19 vaccines in these populations.

### [Canadian Immunization Guide](#)

The Canadian Immunization Guide (CIG) is a comprehensive resource on immunization developed based on recommendations and statements of expert advisory committees, including the National Advisory Committee on Immunization (NACI) and the Committee to Advise on Tropical Medicine and Travel (CATMAT).

This guide is intended for those with an interest in immunization, including health professionals, vaccine program decision makers and other Canadian stakeholders.

[Subscribe](#) to receive information regarding updates to the Canadian Immunization Guide and new National Advisory Committee on Immunization (NACI) recommendations, statements and literature reviews.

## COMING SOON!

### INTRODUCING WEBINAR SHORTS

Starting this fall, Vaccine Confidence, in collaboration with CANVax and the National Collaborating Centre for Infectious Diseases, will be delivering new short format webinars in support of vaccine confidence and providing trusted information to healthcare providers. These agile webinars will be 10-15 minutes in length and will focus on clinical guidance on topics, including seasonal flu vaccines, additional doses of COVID-19 for individuals who are immunocompromised, boosters for long-term care residents, and contraindications to COVID-19 vaccines. Stay tuned to <https://canvax.ca/webinars> for more information!

### SEASONAL FLU GUIDANCE AND RESOURCES

PHAC's Seasonal Influenza (flu) vaccine campaign will launch in mid-October. [NACI recommendations](#) on flu vaccines for the current season are now available.

## VACCINE CONFIDENCE - PUBLIC HEALTH AGENCY OF CANADA

If you have any questions or comments about this Info Bulletin,  
or if you would like to be added to our email mailing list and receive this Info Bulletin directly, please email us at  
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