

TO: Primary Care Providers, Hospitals, Long-Term Care/Retirement Homes, and Pharmacies in Grey-Bruce, and Saugeen First Nation and Chippewas of Nawash Unceded First Nation.

FROM: Grey Bruce Public Health

DATE: April 12, 2023

RE: COVID-19 Booster Recommended for High-Risk Individuals This Spring

Grey Bruce Public Health would like to thank you for your ongoing and unwavering commitment to Ontario's COVID-19 vaccination program.

On Thursday, April 6, 2023, the Ontario Ministry of Health released updated information on COVID-19 booster dose recommendations for this spring. The Chief Medical Officer of Health is recommending that, based on guidance from Health Canada and the National Advisory Committee on Immunization (NACI), high-risk individuals receive their next COVID-19 booster dose this spring. The complete recommendations can be found at the following link: <u>COVID-19</u> <u>Vaccine Administration</u>.

Individuals in the following high-risk groups are recommended to book an appointment for a spring COVID-19 booster if it has been at least six months since their last dose or confirmed COVID-19 infection:

- Individuals aged 65 and older;
- Residents of long-term care homes, retirement homes, and other congregate living settings for seniors;
- Individuals aged 18 and older living in a congregate care setting for people with complex medical care needs;
- Pregnant individuals;
- Individuals aged 18 and older who are moderately to severely immunocompromised;
- Individuals aged 55 and older who identify as First Nations, Inuit, or Metis and their nonindigenous household members aged 55 and older.

Bivalent boosters are recommended over monovalent boosters.

A healthier future for all.

Individuals five years of age and older who have not yet received a booster dose since Sept. 1, 2022, are recommended to receive a booster dose if it has been at least six months since their last dose or confirmed COVID-19 infection.

Recommendations for other individuals who are not high-risk and have already received a booster since Sept. 1, 2022, will be available closer to Fall 2023.

We encourage you to reach out with any inquiries with regards to COVID-19 vaccines. We are available to support you and appreciate your role in this campaign.

GBPH is continuing to provide COVID-19 vaccines at clinics at the Public Health building in Owen Sound and various community centres in Grey-Bruce. A full schedule of clinics is available at this link: <u>Clinic Schedule</u>.

Public Health looks forward to continued collaboration with primary care and our other valued partners as we work together to promote efficient and equitable COVID-19 vaccine distribution and uptake across Grey-Bruce.

Sincerely,

Vaccine Preventable Disease Grey Bruce Public Health vpd@publichealthgreybruce.on.ca 519-376-9420 ext. 3910.