

Info Bulletin

For information on COVID-19:
Canada.ca/coronavirus

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



National

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Updated guidance on COVID-19 vaccines for individuals who are pregnant or breastfeeding

On September 9, 2022, the Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC) released updated guidance from the National Advisory Committee on Immunization (NACI) on the use of COVID-19 vaccines in people who are pregnant or breastfeeding. NACI reaffirms the importance and safety of COVID-19 vaccination during pregnancy and breastfeeding. NACI continues to strongly recommend that people who are pregnant or breastfeeding should receive a primary series of an authorized mRNA COVID-19 vaccine, and also reiterates its existing recommendations for booster doses in these populations.

With regard to a fall booster dose, NACI makes the following recommendations for people who are pregnant:

- NACI strongly recommends that individuals who are pregnant should be offered a fall COVID-19 vaccine booster dose at **any stage of pregnancy**, regardless of the number of previously received booster doses. (*Strong NACI Recommendation*)
- NACI recommends that COVID-19 vaccine booster doses may be offered at an interval of 6 months since a previous COVID-19 vaccine dose or SARS-CoV-2 infection. However, a shorter interval of at least 3 months may be warranted to optimize protection for the pregnant person in the context of heightened epidemiological risk (including increased risk of severe outcomes in people who are pregnant). (*Discretionary NACI Recommendation*)
- Individuals who are pregnant may receive all doses for which they are eligible during the course of their pregnancy.

With regard to a fall booster dose, NACI reiterates the following recommendations for people who are breastfeeding, consistent with NACI's [Interim guidance on planning considerations for a fall 2022 COVID-19 vaccine booster program in Canada](#):

- **Individuals who are breastfeeding** may be offered a fall COVID-19 vaccine booster dose, regardless of the number of booster doses previously received.
- **Individuals at increased risk of severe illness from COVID-19 who are breastfeeding** should be offered a fall COVID-19 vaccine booster dose, regardless of the number of booster doses previously received.

With regard to the use of authorized bivalent Omicron-containing mRNA COVID-19 booster dose products for people who are pregnant or breastfeeding:

- Based on data on the safety of mRNA vaccines in pregnancy, authorized bivalent Omicron-containing mRNA COVID-19 vaccines can be recommended for use in pregnant or breastfeeding individuals who do not have contraindications to the vaccine.
- Individuals, including those who are pregnant or breastfeeding, who are recommended to receive a fall booster dose should not delay their planned vaccination in anticipation of a bivalent Omicron-containing mRNA COVID-19 vaccine. If a bivalent Omicron-containing mRNA COVID-19 vaccine is not readily available, an original mRNA COVID-19 vaccine should be offered to ensure timely protection against severe COVID-19 outcomes.

For the full statement, including supporting evidence and rationale, please see [NACI Statement: Updated guidance on COVID-19 vaccines for individuals who are pregnant or breastfeeding](#).

Canada Dental Benefit making life more affordable for Canadians

The Prime Minister, Justin Trudeau, announced on September 13, 2022, that the government's first pieces of legislation introduced in the upcoming Parliamentary sitting would make life more affordable for Canadians who need it most. One of the measures include a bill that would provide a Canada Dental Benefit to children under 12 who do not have access to dental insurance, starting this year.

Direct payments totalling up to \$1,300 per child over the next two years (up to \$650 per year) would be provided for dental care services. This is the first stage of the government's plan to deliver dental coverage for families with income under \$90,000, and will allow children under 12 to get the dental care they need while the government develops a comprehensive national dental care program, with the goal of expanding dental coverage to under 18-year-olds, seniors, and persons living with a disability in 2023, with full implementation for all families with incomes under \$90,000 by 2025. The Canada Dental Benefit would deliver over \$900 million to support dental health, starting in 2022-23.

For more information, as well as a full list of measures in the new bills, please visit [Making life more affordable for Canadians this year](#).

Government of Canada announces funding for SevenGen Indigenous Youth Energy Summit

The Government of Canada is pleased to announce a \$442,600 investment to [Student Energy](#) for [SevenGen 2022](#), a gathering dedicated to empower the next generation of energy and environmental leaders accelerating our transition to live in a more sustainable way.

In January 2019, 200 First Nations, Inuit and Métis youth from every province and territory came together for the first-ever SevenGen Summit. The Summit's theme was Powering Resilience, with goals for empowering youth and demonstrating the importance of education while furthering conversations on climate and energy challenges and opportunities, particularly for Indigenous communities looking to implement renewable energy for a sustainable future. Building on the success of the first SevenGen Summit, more than 200 Indigenous youth gathered from September 8-11 for SevenGen 2022, hosted at Whitecap Dakota Nation in Saskatchewan. The goal of this year's Summit was to engage, inform and enable delegates to build capacity, confidence and community that will inspire individuals and groups to carry forward their ideas beyond the Summit.

In addition to SevenGen 2022, the funding provided will be used to deliver an Indigenous Youth Mentorship Program. The program draws upon the youth empowerment and training expertise of Student Energy and the energy project development knowledge of [Indigenous Clean Energy](#) to create a robust ecosystem of support to assist Indigenous youth on their paths to become energy leaders.

For more information, please visit the [full news release](#).

Help is available whenever you need it.

Immediate support is available 24/7 for all Indigenous people in Canada.

Hope for Wellness Help Line and Chat
1-855-242-3310 or www.hopeforwellness.ca

Indian Residential Schools Crisis Line
1-866-925-4419

Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls Support Line
1-844-413-6649

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

Appointments for bivalent COVID-19 vaccine now available for eligible people

Manitoba Health advises that [people who are eligible](#) for the bivalent COVID-19 vaccine can begin booking appointments using the [online booking tool](#), by contacting the vaccine call centre at (toll-free) 1-844-626-8222 (1-844-MAN-VACC) or by contacting medical clinics and pharmacies directly.

The bivalent vaccine has been developed to provide protection against 2 strains of COVID-19: the original strain of the virus and the omicron variant. At this time, the following groups can get this vaccine:

- Indigenous people aged 18 or older, regardless of where they live
- adults aged 65 or older
- individuals aged 18 or older with higher-risk medical conditions, including people who are immunocompromised due to a health condition or medication and those who are pregnant
- health-care workers aged 18 or older, including fire/paramedic first responders
- residents of personal care homes and other congregate living facilities including assisted living, group homes, shelters and correctional facilities

Manitoba received its first shipment of 27,650 doses of vaccine September 9. A second shipment of 77,600 from the federal government was to be received during the week of September 12.

For more information, please visit the [full news release](#) and [ProtectMB.ca](#).

Children aged 12 years and older now eligible for booster dose

As of September 12, anyone aged 12 and older can receive a booster of the monovalent (original) vaccine if they choose. However, it is recommended that all adults wait for access to a bivalent vaccine, as it provides additional protection from omicron variants of COVID-19.

The province expects to be able to expand eligibility for the bivalent vaccine to all Manitobans aged 18 and older in the coming weeks, based on vaccine shipments from the federal government and initial uptake among eligible groups. Updates will continue to be provided to Manitobans about eligibility and supply.

For more information on booster doses, please visit [Protect MB – COVID-19 Boosters](#).

Manitoba government announces free menstrual products in schools

The Manitoba government has reached an agreement with Shoppers Drug Mart to provide free menstrual products to schools and other agencies to improve accessibility and reduce period poverty. Through the agreement with Shoppers Drug Mart, schools, domestic violence shelters, resource centres and second stage and specialized programs will receive menstrual products to administer to those most in need.

As part of this partnership, more than 3.3 million menstrual products will be donated to the initiative each year for 3 years. The Manitoba government will distribute the products monthly to schools and other identified locations. School divisions and schools will determine where the supplies are most needed.

For more information, please visit the [full news release](#).

Vaccine clinic at RBC Convention Centre now closed

The last day of operations for the vaccine clinic at the RBC Convention Centre was September 17. Walk-in vaccinations ended on September 10. The vaccine clinic in Winnipeg will transition to 1680 Notre Dame Ave. with the first appointments available September 20. **Walk-ins will not be available at this location.**

To book an appointment for the COVID-19 vaccine, please use the online booking tool, by contacting the vaccine call centre at (toll-free) 1-844-626-8222 (1-844-MAN-VACC) or by contacting medical clinics and pharmacies directly.

Free testing kits available across the province

The province recommends that Manitobans keep a supply of rapid antigen tests at home. These tests are available at many locations across the province, including pharmacies, grocery stores and libraries.

To help locate convenient pickup locations, please visit the [online map](#). For more information on how to use a rapid test, please visit [About Rapid Antigen Tests](#).



Nurse up North
Apply now!

Indigenous Services Canada / Services aux Autochtones Canada

Canada

The Government of Canada has announced [recruitment and retention allowances to triple through to 2025 for Indigenous Services Canada nurses in remote and isolated communities](#). Become a northern community nurse in a First Nations community and build relationships that will last a lifetime!

Visit Indigenous Services Canada's website to [find out more and apply](#) and read [testimonials](#) from nurses with experience working in First Nations in Manitoba.