

SUMMARY OF NATIONAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON IMMUNIZATION (NACI) STATEMENT OF JUNE, 2026

Guidance on the use of COVID-19 vaccines starting fall 2026



TO PROMOTE AND PROTECT THE HEALTH OF CANADIANS THROUGH
LEADERSHIP, PARTNERSHIP, INNOVATION AND ACTION IN PUBLIC HEALTH.

—Public Health Agency of Canada

Également disponible en français sous le titre :

Directives sur l'utilisation des vaccins contre la COVID-19 à partir de l'automne 2026

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Overview

In June 2026, the Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC) released the National Advisory Committee on Immunization's (NACI) Guidance on the use of COVID-19 vaccines starting fall 2026. This guidance is based on current evidence and NACI expert opinion.

- **NACI continues to strongly recommend COVID-19 immunization programs for individuals at increased risk of SARS-CoV-2 exposure or severe COVID-19 disease.**

The following groups are considered at increased risk of SARS-CoV-2 exposure or severe COVID-19 disease:

- All adults 65 years of age or older
- Those 6 months of age and older who are:
 - Residents of long-term care homes and other congregate living settings for seniors;
 - Individuals with underlying medical conditions that put them at higher risk of severe COVID-19, including children with complex health needs;
 - Pregnant women and pregnant individuals;
 - Individuals in or from First Nations, Inuit and Métis communities;
 - Health care workers and other care providers in facilities and community settings; and
 - Members of racialized and other equity-denied communities.
- **NACI recommends that programs may also offer immunization to all other individuals 6 months of age and older.**
 - Individuals may choose to receive the vaccine based on individual COVID-19 risk assessment or preference.

Most populations are recommended to receive one dose per year. However, some populations continue to be recommended to receive a second dose per year because protection from COVID-19 vaccines decreases over time.

- **NACI strongly recommends that a second dose of COVID-19 vaccine per year be offered to the following groups, at a minimum interval of 3 months from the previous dose:**
 - **Adults 80 years of age or older;**
 - **Residents of long-term care homes, as well as residents of other congregate living settings for seniors;**
 - **Individuals 6 months of age and older who are moderately to severely immunocompromised (due to an underlying condition or treatment); and**

- **Adults 65 to 79 years of age with underlying medical conditions that place them at higher risk of severe COVID-19.**
- **NACI recommends that programs may also offer a second dose of COVID-19 vaccine per year to all other adults 65 to 79 years of age, at a minimum interval of 3 months from the previous dose.**

What you need to know

- COVID-19 is a respiratory infection caused by the SARS-CoV-2 virus and can cause mild to severe illness, including hospitalization and death.
- COVID-19 vaccines provide good protection against severe illness and also reduce the risk of getting infected by SARS-CoV-2. Available evidence suggests that this protection wanes after about 4 to 6 months.
- Individuals can receive either an mRNA or protein subunit COVID-19 vaccine, based on age and vaccine availability. It is expected that COVID-19 vaccines will continue to be updated annually. When possible, the most recent COVID-19 vaccine produced by the manufacturer should be used.
- Risk for severe COVID-19 illness, including hospitalization and death, increases with age. NACI has recommended two doses of COVID-19 vaccine per year for those 80 years of age and over.
- Considering a recent cost-effectiveness analysis, NACI now also recommends COVID-19 vaccination twice per year for adults aged 65 to 79 years of age with underlying medical conditions.
- As with other vaccine programs, provinces and territories determine which populations will receive publicly funded COVID-19 vaccines based on several factors such as epidemiology, cost effectiveness, and feasibility of delivering the program. For those who are not included in COVID-19 programs funded by provinces and territories, vaccines may be made available for purchase through pharmacies.
- COVID-19 vaccines may be given concurrently or at any time before or after non-COVID-19 vaccines. Many Canadian jurisdictions continue to offer a combined fall immunization program for seasonal influenza and COVID-19. This approach offers

efficiency but should consider the variable timing of SARS-CoV-2 peak seasonal activity since 2023, and the limited duration of vaccine-induced protection against COVID-19.

NACI will continue to monitor the evolving evidence and will update guidance as needed.

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