

Third Doses of COVID-19 Vaccine for Licensed Retirement Home Residents

FAQs

October 13, 2021

1. Who is eligible for a third dose? As announced on October 7, 2021, vulnerable elderly living in congregate care settings, including residents in licensed retirement homes are eligible for a third dose. This includes individuals being transferred from hospital to licensed retirement homes, such as ALC patients.

2. After what interval of time following a second dose are residents of licensed retirement homes eligible for a third dose? Vulnerable elderly living in congregate care settings, including residents of licensed retirement homes are eligible to receive their third dose at least five months after their second dose. There is no upper limit to the dosing interval for third doses.

3. Which vaccine should residents of licensed retirement homes be receiving for their third dose? If readily available, third doses should be the same product as second doses, but the mRNA vaccines can be interchanged if needed for operational reasons.

4. Why do residents of licensed retirement homes need a third dose? Based on the recommendation of the National Advisory Committee on Immunization (NACI), the province will begin offering third doses of the COVID-19 vaccine to vulnerable elderly living in congregate care settings, including licensed retirement homes. This will provide residents with an extra layer of protection against the Delta variant in light of evidence that shows the immune response in seniors wanes several months after receiving two COVID-19 vaccine doses.

5. Are licensed retirement home staff or essential caregivers that are seniors eligible for a third dose?

Only residents of licensed retirement homes are eligible for a third dose at this time, unless the staff person or essential caregiver is eligible as a result of being severely immunocompromised. The evidence does not currently support or warrant third doses in the general population.

6. Who is administering third doses for licensed retirement home residents?

Public health units (PHUs) should work collaboratively with licensed retirement homes to set up operators for independent administration of COVID-19 vaccines where such capacity exists. Where independent administration by the home is not possible, PHUs are responsible for identifying the approach for administering third doses in homes (e.g.,

through the use of mobile teams). Third doses can start being administered as soon as the home, PHU or mobile clinic is ready.

7. Can the flu vaccine be given at the same time as the COVID-19 vaccine? Yes, the flu vaccine and COVID-19 vaccine can be administered at the same time.

The updated NACI Recommendations on the Use of COVID-19 Vaccines can be found here: <https://www.canada.ca/content/dam/phac-aspc/documents/services/immunization/national-advisory-committee-on-immunization-naci/recommendations-use-covid-19-vaccines/recommendations-use-covid-19-vaccines-en.pdf>

The Summary of NACI's Statement can be found here: <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/immunization/national-advisory-committee-on-immunization-naci/recommendations-use-covid-19-vaccines/summary-updates-september-28-2021.html>