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Subject: Ontario Releasing Guidance to Support Proof of Vaccination Policy



NEWS RELEASE

Ontario Releasing Guidance to Support Proof of Vaccination Policy

Province Continues to Expand Third Dose Eligibility for Those at Highest Risk of COVID-19

September 14, 2021

[Ministry of Health](#)

TORONTO — As the province continues to respond to the fourth wave of the pandemic driven by the highly transmissible Delta variant, the government is further protecting Ontarians through continued actions that encourage every eligible person to get vaccinated and help stop the spread of COVID-19.

Today the government released [the regulations](#) and [guidance](#) for businesses and organizations to support them in implementing [proof of vaccination requirements](#), which take effect on September 22, 2021. Requiring proof of vaccination will help increase vaccination rates, protect individuals in higher-risk indoor settings, and keep businesses open.

“High rates of vaccination against COVID-19 are critical to helping protect our communities and hospital capacity while keeping Ontario schools and businesses safely open,” said Christine Elliott, Deputy Premier and Minister of Health. “As we continue our last mile push to increase vaccination rates, requiring proof of immunization in select settings will encourage even more Ontarians to receive the vaccine and stop the spread of COVID-19. If you haven’t received your first or second dose of the COVID-19 vaccine, please sign up today.”

In advance of September 22, all Ontarians can print or download their vaccination receipt from the [provincial booking portal](#). The Ministry is working on additional supports and services to assist Ontario residents who

need help obtaining proof of vaccination, including requesting a copy be sent by mail. Those who need support obtaining a copy of their vaccination receipt including those who do not have access to a computer or printer can call the Provincial Vaccine Contact Centre at 1-833-943-3900.

Ontario is developing an enhanced vaccine certificate with a unique QR code to make it safer, more secure and convenient to show that you have been vaccinated, when required to do so. The enhanced vaccine certificate and verification app will be available by October 22, 2021. Ontario's proof of vaccination guidance will be updated to reflect the new processes.

"Businesses need a smart, quick and safe solution to verify vaccination," said Kaleed Rasheed, Associate Minister of Digital Government. "The made-in-Ontario enhanced vaccine certificate for the public and the verification app for businesses are tools to confirm that an individual has been vaccinated while protecting Ontarians' health data."

The [proof of vaccination policy](#) has resulted in a marked increase in vaccination rates. Between September 1 and September 8, 2021, the seven-day average for first doses administered increased by more than 29 per cent, from over 11,400 doses to over 14,700 doses. During that time, more than 90,000 first doses and 102,000 second doses were administered in Ontario to individuals aged 18 to 59.

To further increase vaccine uptake, the province is continuing its [last mile strategy](#) to reach eligible individuals who have yet to receive a first or second dose. This includes:

- The provincial call centre booking or rebooking more than 135,000 appointments;
- The GO-VAXX bus administering more than 3,700 doses with 50 per cent being first doses, since launching on August 7, 2021;
- Setting up a Provincial Vaccine Confidence Line that individuals can call to speak with an experienced agent or health specialist about COVID-19 vaccine questions; and
- Supporting more than 550 vaccination clinics in or nearby elementary, secondary and post-secondary schools that are currently operational or planned for the near future.

"As we continue to see cases of COVID-19 in our communities, we must keep up the fight against the transmission of this virus and its variants to create a safer environment for ourselves, our families and our communities," said Solicitor General Sylvia Jones. "The best defense against COVID-19 is getting a vaccine and encouraging everyone who is eligible to get vaccinated too. Wearing a mask and practising physical

distancing where possible are public health measures we all must continue to follow.”

To further protect those who face the highest risk from COVID-19 and the Delta variant, the government, in consultation with the Chief Medical Officer of Health is following the evidence and recommendations from the National Advisory Committee on Immunization and will begin offering third doses of the COVID-19 vaccine to [additional groups](#), such as individuals with moderate or severe primary immunodeficiency, individuals receiving active treatment for significantly immunosuppressive conditions and those with acquired immunodeficiency syndrome. Locations and timing for third doses will vary by public health unit and high-risk population based on local planning and considerations.

“Getting fully vaccinated is the most important step you can take to protect yourself and others,” said Dr. Kieran Moore, Chief Medical Officer of Health. “To provide the best protection to some of our more vulnerable populations, we are offering a third dose to additional groups of immunocompromised people who are more likely to have had a less than adequate immune response to the initial two dose COVID-19 vaccine series. I continue to strongly encourage anyone eligible who hasn’t already come forward to get their COVID-19 shot, to do so today to do their part to help keep themselves, their loved ones and our communities safe.”

Quick Facts

- Those who have questions about COVID-19 vaccines and would like to speak to an experienced agent or health specialist are encouraged to call the Provincial Vaccine Confidence Line that can be accessed through the Provincial Vaccine Contact Centre: 1-833-943-3900 (TTY for people who are deaf, hearing-impaired or speech-impaired: 1-866-797-0007). The Provincial Vaccine Contact Centre is available in more than 300 languages, seven days a week from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.
- Ontarians who received their first or second dose of the [COVID-19 vaccine out of province](#) should contact their local [public health unit](#) to have their information verified and recorded so they can receive an Ontario receipt that they can access or print from the [provincial booking portal](#).
- The province will continue to work with the federal government to ensure the integration and interoperability with a national vaccine passport for the purposes of international travel.
- On [July 16, 2021](#), the province [moved into Step Three](#) of the [Roadmap to Reopen](#). Face coverings in indoor public settings and physical distancing requirements remain in place throughout Step Three.

- COVID-19 vaccines are currently available at over 3,150 locations across the province, including more than 2,500 pharmacies and more than 1,000 currently operational mass immunization clinics, hospitals, primary care settings and pop up and mobile clinics.
- A key component of Ontario's last mile strategy is getting vaccines to people, wherever they are located. If you need your first or second shot, keep an eye out for the [GO-VAXX mobile clinics](#).
- Anyone with symptoms or who is a known close contact of someone with COVID-19, and other groups that meet provincial testing eligibility criteria, should make an appointment at an assessment centre, participating pharmacy or specimen collection centre. Please visit [Ontario.ca/covidtest](https://ontario.ca/covidtest) to find a testing location and for eligibility criteria to be tested.

Additional Resources

- [Using your Vaccination Receipt: Frequently Asked Questions](#)
- [Expanded Eligibility for Third Doses of the COVID-19 Vaccine](#)
- [Ontario to Require Proof of Vaccination in Select Settings](#)
- [Ontario Deploying Last Mile Strategy to Further Increase Vaccination Rates](#)
- [Ontario Makes COVID-19 Vaccination Policies Mandatory for High-Risk Settings](#)
- [Ontario Working with Public Health Units to Run COVID-19 Vaccination Clinics in Schools](#)
- [COVID-19: Health, safety and operational guidance \(2021-22\)](#)
- For public inquiries, please contact the Provincial Vaccine Contact Centre at 1-833-943-3900 (TTY for people who are deaf, hearing-impaired or speech-impaired: 1-866-797-0007).
- For resources in multiple languages to help local communication efforts in responding to COVID-19, visit Ontario's [COVID-19 communication resources webpage](#).
- Visit Ontario's [website](#) to learn more about how the province continues to protect the people of Ontario from COVID-19.

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