

Fact Sheet: Third Doses of the COVID-19 Vaccine

For Elderly Residents of Congregate Care Settings

Why is a Third Dose Being Recommended?

- COVID-19 vaccines are effective against preventing infection and severe illness, but there is evidence that the protection they provide may decrease over time.
- Elderly individuals living in Long-Term Care Homes and other similar settings have an increased risk of exposure and are at higher risk of severe illness and death from COVID-19.
- Ontario and national experts agree that the highest level of protection should be offered to these residents.
- Getting a third dose will help improve your immune system's response against COVID-19 if you are exposed to the virus.



Are Third Doses Safe?



- The availability of safety data for third doses of the COVID-19 vaccine in elderly individuals is currently limited, but the data available to date show no differences in terms of adverse events following third doses.
- The risk of myocarditis and/or pericarditis (heart inflammation) associated with a third dose of an mRNA vaccine is unknown at this time, but the evidence is being monitored.
- The benefits of vaccination for preventing COVID-19 infection and illness continue to outweigh the risks of rare adverse events.

What are the Side Effects after a Third Dose?

- You may have similar side effects as the first and second dose including:
 - Pain, discolouration or swelling on the arm where you got the vaccine
 - Fever, chills
 - Tiredness, muscle/joint pain
 - Headache
 - Nausea
- Most side effects are mild and resolve within 1-2 days after vaccination. Allergic reactions to the vaccine and other serious side effects are rare. At the time of immunization, you will be informed of what other symptoms to look out for.



Talk to a health care provider if you have more questions.