



Durham Region Health Department FAX about...

For Health Care Professionals



National Pfizer-BioNTech Comirnaty Shortage

In order to address the new Omicron COVID-19 variant, the province accelerated the rollout of booster doses by expanding eligibility to adults 18 years and older. Subsequently, there has been a high demand for vaccine resulting in a **national shortage of the Pfizer-BioNTech Comirnaty** for individuals 12 years and older. Overall, there is limited supply of Pfizer throughout Canada.

Commencing **December 29, 2021**, the Health Department recommends health care providers, pharmacists and community partners reserve Pfizer vaccine for individuals ages 12- 29 only. Therefore, clients ages 30 and older should receive Moderna as their first, second or third COVID-19 vaccine dose. This recommendation is based on the following considerations:

- Pfizer is the only COVID-19 vaccine authorized for individuals ages 12 to 17 in Ontario.
- Pfizer is recommended for individuals aged 18 to 29 due to lower reported rates of myocarditis/pericarditis following vaccination with Pfizer compared to Moderna.
- The Ministry of Health recommends that either Pfizer or Moderna vaccines may be used as a third dose regardless of which COVID-19 vaccine was used in the primary series.
- Getting a booster dose is the best protection against the rapidly spreading Omicron variant; therefore, vaccination should not be delayed.
- Mixing COVID-19 vaccines is safe, effective, and enables Ontarians to benefit from the protection of a booster dose.
- Both the Moderna and Pfizer COVID-19 vaccines provide strong protection against COVID-19 and its variants.

The province has requested a significant amount of Pfizer vaccine from Federal partners for the New Year. In the interim, individuals should not delay booster vaccination as the province has enough mRNA vaccine supply for every interested Ontarian to receive a primary or booster dose.

December 24, 2021

905-668-2020 or 1-800-841-2729 | durham.ca/health

If you require this information in an accessible format, contact 1-800-841-2729.

