

TO: Independent Child Care Providers

FROM: Phil Graham
Assistant Deputy Minister
Early Years and Child Care Division

DATE: June 22, 2021

SUBJECT: Accelerating Second Dose Eligibility for COVID-19 Vaccines

The government values the important role that all child care and early years workers continue to play in supporting children and families through the COVID-19 pandemic. The Ministry of Education is committed to keeping you updated on important health and safety information that will help you operate your programs and protect staff, children and families, and is sharing the information below to ensure you are aware of recent announcements on accelerating second dose eligibility of COVID-19 vaccines.

On June 17, 2021 the government announced the following plan to accelerate second dose eligibility of vaccines, inclusive of child care and early years workers, as follows:

- As of **Monday, June 21, 2021** at 8:00 a.m., all Ontarians who received their first dose of an mRNA COVID-19 vaccine on or before May 9, 2021 will be eligible to book or rebook their second dose appointment at a shortened interval.
- As of **Wednesday, June 23, 2021** at 8:00 a.m., individuals who received their first dose of an mRNA vaccine on or before May 30, 2021 and who live in the catchment area of one of the 10 public health units identified as Delta hot spots (Durham, Halton, Hamilton, Peel, Porcupine, Simcoe-Muskoka, Toronto, Waterloo, Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph, and York public health units) will be eligible to book or rebook their second dose appointment at a shortened interval.
- Starting the **week of June 28, 2021** (days / sequence to be confirmed) all Ontarians aged 18 and over who have received their first dose of an mRNA COVID-19 vaccine will be eligible to book their second dose appointment. The appointment will be scheduled at least 28 days after the first dose, per the recommended interval.

In addition, effective June 14, 2021, child care and early years workers who received their first dose of the AstraZeneca vaccine are also eligible to receive a second dose of

a COVID-19 vaccine at an interval of eight to 12 weeks, with informed consent. This can include a second dose of AstraZeneca or an mRNA vaccine.

Child care and early years workers who are eligible to receive an accelerated second dose are invited to schedule their appointment through the [provincial vaccine booking system](#), directly through public health units that use their own booking system, or through [participating pharmacies](#). Select primary care providers will also be reaching out to book appointments.

Child care and early years workers can use the [provincial vaccine booking system](#) to find out how to schedule an appointment, or can call the Provincial Vaccine Booking Line number at 1-833-943-3900. For general inquiries, individuals can call the Provincial Vaccine Information Line number at 1-888-999-6488. A TTY service is also available by calling [1-866-797-0007](#). Child care and early years workers can also visit ontario.ca/pharmacycovidvaccine to find a pharmacy offering a COVID-19 vaccine and to book an appointment.

Thank-you for your continued commitment to support Ontario's children and families and to keep child care and early years workers safe.

Sincerely,

Phil Graham