**Template letter: COVID-19 Fall booster doses for individuals aged 5+**

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| This message was developed by the OMA. It can be adapted by your practice and distributed to patients. Pediatricians may choose to delete the high risk group bullet points that apply only to individuals over 18.  |

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*Insert letterhead for your practice*

Dear Patients,

Booster doses of the COVID-19 vaccine are available in Ontario for people 5 years and older. I strongly recommend that you get a booster dose of the COVID-19 vaccine. Protection from the vaccine goes down over time. A booster dose gives you more protection against getting very sick and going to the hospital for COVID-19. It can also help prevent the spread of Covid-19.

If you belong to any of the following groups at **high risk** for getting COVID-19 or getting very sick from COVID-19, you should get a booster dose if it has been three months or more since your last dose:

●        People aged 65+

●        First Nation, Inuit and Métis people and their non-Indigenous household members aged 18+

●        Pregnant people aged 12+

●        Health-care workers aged 18+

●        A resident of a long-term care home, retirement home, Elder Care Lodge, or an older adult living in a congregate setting that provides assisted-living and health services

●        People aged 12+ who are moderately to severely immunocompromised

If you are **12+ years old and don’t fall into any of the high risk groups**, you should get a booster dose if it has been six months or more since your last dose of a COVID-19 vaccine or since you had COVID-19.

**Children ages 5-11** should also get a COVID-19 booster dose. Children should get a booster dose if it has been six months or more since their last dose of a COVID-19 vaccine.

At this time, booster doses are not recommended for young children under 5 years old, but it is important that they get their recommended doses of COVID-19 vaccine. To learn more about COVID-19 vaccination for children under five, visit the [SickKids website](https://www.aboutkidshealth.ca/Article?contentid=4054&language=English&hub=COVID-19).

Along with your COVID-19 booster dose, I strongly recommend that you get your flu vaccine. You can get your COVID-19 booster and flu vaccine at the same time. Children between six months and five years old should wait 14 days before or after getting a COVID-19 vaccine to get any other vaccines.

If you have any questions or concerns about getting a booster or protecting yourself and your family members from COVID-19, I am here to help. I would be happy to talk through this decision with you. Please call the office to book an appointment.

You can also use the [online booster dose eligibility checker](https://www.ontario.ca/vaccine-eligibility/) or contact the following resources for support:

·      [SickKids COVID-19 Vaccine Consult Service](https://www.sickkids.ca/vaccineconsult): visit the website or call 1-888-304-6558. Appointments are available in multiple languages.

·      [Scarborough Health Network VaxFacts Clinic](https://www.shn.ca/vaxfacts/): visit the website or call 416-438-2911 ext. 5738. Appointments are available seven days a week, from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m., in over 200 languages.

To book a booster dose appointment at a mass vaccination clinic or pharmacy, visit [how to book a COVID-19 vaccine appointment](https://www.ontario.ca/book-vaccine/) or call the Provincial Vaccine Contact Centre at 1-833-943-3900.

Sincerely,