

Ontarians 18+ eligible for vaccine boosters Monday

All Ontarians who received their second dose of an approved COVID-19 vaccine at least three months ago will be eligible for a booster shot this Monday, December 20.

The expanded eligibility was announced by Premier Doug Ford on Wednesday afternoon in what he described as a "call to arms" to fight the Omicron variant.

"As we combat the spread of the highly contagious Omicron variant, nothing matters more than getting these booster doses into people's arms," said Ford. "I am issuing a call to arms. We need every member of Team Ontario to stand tall and do their part as we work to protect our hard-fought progress and keep Ontarians safe."

On Monday, residents 18+ who meet the three-month threshold will be able to book their vaccine through the Ontario Booking Portal (covid19.ontariohealth.ca), their local health units, and participating pharmacies and primary care settings.

Eligibility expands earlier in some select settings this Friday for anyone 18+, including pharmacies and "other channels" for walk-ins after the three-month interval.

Individuals aged 50+, and those who are currently eligible, who have already booked their appointments according to the six-month timeline can call the Provincial Vaccine Contact Centre at 1-833-943-3900 to re-book at an earlier date.

"As we continue to learn more about the Omicron variant, we need all hands on deck to help limit transmission and protect our hospital capacity," said Health Minister Christine Elliott. "A third dose of the COVID-19 vaccine offers additional protection against the Omicron variant, and I urge everyone to get their booster dose as soon as you can. If you haven't received your first or second dose of the vaccine, now is the time."

Additionally, effective Saturday at 12.01 a.m. 50 per cent capacity limits will be introduced at indoor venues with a capacity of 1,000 or more, including sports and recreational fitness activities, entertainment facilities such as cinemas, meeting spaces, museums, festivals and gaming establishments.

By Brock Weir Editor Local Journalism Initiative Reporter