**Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)**

**Q: What was the process to determine which WRDSB/WCDSB staff were prioritized for the vaccination?**

**A:** The Waterloo Catholic District School Board and Waterloo Region District School Board have been working closely with Region of Waterloo Public Health and the Region of Waterloo’s Vaccine Task Force to determine the best public health approach to protecting vulnerable populations, and to reduce the transmission of the virus. Those staff who have prolonged contact with vulnerable students in the provision of personal care have been determined to be a priority group for vaccination.

**Q: When will the rest of school-based education staff be vaccinated?**

**A:** We are continuing our collaboration with Region of Waterloo Public Health to plan for the vaccination of all school-based education staff and will provide updates as soon as they are available. The health and safety of our staff remains of the utmost priority.

**Q: After I am vaccinated, do I still need to follow all the public health guidelines? Do I still have to wear a mask or face covering, maintain appropriate physical distance from others and complete the mandated daily COVID-19 screen?**

**A:** Yes. It is important that you continue to follow public health measures after you are vaccinated. You must continue to complete the daily COVID-19 screening process and must continue to wear all mandated PPE, while maintaining appropriate physical distance from others when not directly interacting with students in your work function(s)students.

*Even once protected, you can still carry COVID-19 and pass the virus onto others.*

**Q: Where will I be able to get a vaccine when it is my turn for vaccination?**

**A:** Visit The Region of Waterloo Public Health [COVID-19 Vaccination Clinics in Waterloo Region](https://www.regionwaterloo.ca/covid19/vaccine-clinics) page for information about clinics that are now open for priority populations.

**Q: What vaccine will I get?**
A: As the circumstances around the COVID-19 vaccines change frequently, you will not know which brand of vaccine you are getting until you arrive at the vaccination site. Just like all other vaccines, the one offered to you is the best one based on a variety of factors, including what products are available; what product is approved for your age or health conditions; allergies to any of the vaccine ingredients; and more. The COVID-19 vaccines currently approved are all highly effective at reducing the risk of serious illness, hospitalization, and death, and will help with the control of COVID-19 in the community.

**Can I choose which vaccine I will get?**

A: No. The vaccine you are offered first is the best vaccine. While there are many different brands of COVID-19 vaccines now, you cannot choose the specific brand you get.

The COVID-19 vaccines currently approved are all highly effective at reducing the risk of serious illness, hospitalization, and death, and will help with the control of COVID-19 in the community.

Delaying the vaccine is not recommended as the longer you wait, the longer you remain unprotected and prolong your risk of getting COVID-19. Evidence for all the vaccines found them to be highly effective against COVID-19 based on clinical trials with thousands of participants.

**Q: How do I know the vaccines are safe?**

A: Canada has very high standards for vaccine safety. Health Canada only authorizes vaccines in Canada after a thorough and independent review of the scientific evidence. Once a vaccine is in use, Health Canada continues to monitor and can quickly have it removed if safety concerns are identified. All COVID-19 vaccines must be authorized for use by Health Canada.


**Q: How long after I get the first dose will I get my second dose?**

A: Ontario is following the [recommendations of the National Advisory Committee on Immunization (NACI)](https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/vaccines/vaccines-guidelines.html) and extending the time between the first and second doses of the COVID-19 vaccine to **16 weeks**. The 16-week interval applies to the vaccines currently approved by Health Canada that require two doses. This means that more people will be protected sooner.
Anyone who received a first dose and has an appointment booked for a second dose will have their appointment adjusted to the new time interval of 16 weeks between doses.

You will be notified by your preferred method of communication about the appointment change in the coming days, as well as a later notification with your new appointment date, time, and location.

You do not need to book or reschedule your own second dose appointment.