

Covid-19 vaccine Spring Booster is not for everyone!

Based on guidance from the National Advisory Committee on Immunization, BC is offering a spring booster dose to people most at risk of severe illness **6 months** after their last COVID-19 vaccine.

The risk of severe disease after COVID-19 infection has decreased substantially due to very high vaccination coverage, decrease virulence of Omicron, and most people having been infected previously. A systematic review found that primary series vaccination and infection reduced the risk of severe disease by 97% at 12 months.

Each Covid-19 vaccine booster increases your immunity level, which may be important for those at highest absolute risk of harm. Advanced age remains the primary risk factor for severe disease.

People who should get a spring booster include:

- **People in long-term care or waiting for admission.**
- **Older adults and elders:**
 - 80 years and older
 - 70 years and older and Indigenous
- **Adults (18+) who are moderately to severely immunocompromised.**

In addition, **people who have NOT had COVID-19 and are 60 years and older, or 50 years and older and Indigenous** can consider getting a spring booster. If you are in this age group and have already had COVID-19, you may not need another booster yet.

To find out when the Covid-19 Spring booster will be available in your community and book an appointment, please **connect with your Nation**.

If not in community, **where can you access the Covid-19 Spring booster?**

- Your local **Public Health Unit** – Call 1 833 838 2323 to book an appointment or register at <https://www.getvaccinated.gov.bc.ca/s/>
- Your local **pharmacy** – Most pharmacies (i.e Walmart, No Frills) will ask you to book an appointment via the link above. Some pharmacies like Save-on Foods do not offer the vaccine.
- Port Alberni Shoppers Drug Mart will start offering the Covid-19 Spring booster April 19, 2023, on Wednesdays and Thursday from 11:00 am to 4:00 pm. Walk-ins only.

