

Ministry of Health

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Ministère de la Santé

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October 7th, 2021

Dear Residents living in long-term care homes and their family and friends,

I am writing to encourage all residents living in a long-term care home to receive a third dose of COVID-19 vaccine. A third dose is strongly recommended for residents of long-term care homes, given at least five months after receiving a second dose.

As you may be aware, the Delta variant of concern is the predominant strain circulating in Ontario in our current fourth wave. Delta has shown it is more transmissible and can cause more severe disease than the previous COVID-19 virus strains.

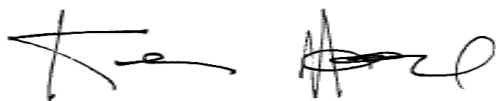
Even in the context of the Delta variant, a two-dose COVID-19 vaccine series provides strong protection in the general population against COVID-19, particularly against severe disease, hospitalization and death. In long-term care homes, vaccination has been effective in significantly reducing the number of cases, as observed over recent months.

However, there is growing evidence that some particularly vulnerable populations, including those living in a long-term care home, require a third dose to maximize their protection against COVID-19. Therefore, it is strongly recommended that all residents receive a third vaccine dose at least five months after their second dose. All the vaccines approved by Health Canada are safe and effective, and an additional dose will provide added protection.

I want to assure you that the Ministry of Health is closely monitoring the incidence and variants of COVID-19, both globally and in Ontario, and our recommendations are based on the best available evidence.

Thank you for your ongoing support as we work together to prevent and control COVID-19 in Ontario.

Sincerely,



Dr. Kieran Moore
Chief Medical Officer of Health