



For immediate release

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## **Bivalent COVID-19 Booster for 12+**

Northwestern Health Unit (NWHU) urges residents to stay up to date on their COVID-19 vaccinations. The vaccine formula that offers improved protection against the Omicron variant is now available for anyone aged 12 and up.

"The COVID-19 vaccine is still the best protection we have against the virus - I highly recommend that everyone stays up to date on their COVID-19 vaccinations," says Dr. Kit Young Hoon, Medical Officer of Health at NWHU. "Anyone aged 65+, and those aged 18+ who are pregnant, immunocompromised, or identify as Indigenous should get their booster dose three months after their last dose or COVID-19 infection," Dr. Young Hoon says.

Those aged 5 and up who do not fit into the above categories should book their booster shot for six months after their last dose. Although the bivalent booster dose is only available for those aged 12 or older, children aged 5-11 can receive a booster dose of the original vaccine.

"There is increased COVID-19 activity in other regions of the province, and everyone can reduce the impact of another wave here by getting vaccinated," says Dr. Young Hoon.

In addition to COVID-19 vaccines, at most clinics, NWHU is also offering the flu shot. People can get both vaccines from pharmacies, their health care provider, or by booking into a NWHU clinic at <a href="https://www.nwhu.on.ca">www.nwhu.on.ca</a>.

Protect yourself, your loved ones, and our local health care system. Get vaccinated this fall!

## MEDIA RELEASE



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