Out of Province and Out of Country Vaccinations

TO:
Family Physicians
Infectious Disease Physicians
St. Joseph’s Centre for Ambulatory Health Services, Urgent Care
Emergency Departments

FOR YOUR INFORMATION:
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FROM: Dr. Ninh Tran, Associate Medical Officer of Health, Hamilton Public Health Services
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This medical advisory provides an update re: COVID-19 vaccinations for those who have received vaccination out of province or out of Country in response to guidance that was issued by the Ontario Ministry of Health on September 14th. The full guidance can be accessed from the webpages outlined at the end of the advisory.

In Canada, four COVID-19 vaccines have been reviewed and authorized for use by Health Canada either through an interim order or through full approval (Pfizer, Moderna, AstraZeneca, Janssen/Johnson & Johnson). Additional COVID-19 vaccines that have been authorized in other countries have been reviewed by the World Health Organization (WHO) and added to the WHO emergency list.

Fully Vaccinated Definition

According to new Ontario guidance, an individual is fully vaccinated against COVID-19 if they have received:

- The full series of a COVID-19 vaccine authorized by Health Canada, or any combination of such vaccines,
- One or two doses of a COVID-19 vaccine not authorized by Health Canada, followed by one dose of a COVID-19 mRNA vaccine authorized by Health Canada (Pfizer or Moderna), or
- Three doses of a COVID-19 vaccine not authorized by Health Canada; and
- They received their final dose of the COVID-19 vaccine at least 14 days before providing the proof of being fully vaccinated.
Guidance for Individuals who have Received COVID-19 Vaccination Out of Country

Individuals who have either started or completed their COVID-19 vaccine series outside of Canada with a vaccine not currently authorized by Health Canada should be offered one additional dose of an mRNA vaccine (Pfizer or Moderna) soon after arrival in Canada. This will be considered a complete series and will provide optimal protection. The minimum interval between the preceding dose and the additional dose should be 28 days.

If individuals have already received three doses of a COVID-19 vaccine, no additional doses should be offered at this time.

Proof of Vaccination

Individuals who have received a partial or complete COVID-19 vaccine series outside of Ontario or Canada should submit their proof of vaccination to Hamilton Public Health Services (HPHS) to have their COVID-19 vaccine immunization record documented in COVAX. Records can be submitted via the following methods:

- Mail (Address: Vaccine Program – 2nd Floor, Robert Thomson Building, 110 King St W, Hamilton, ON, L8P 4V3),
- Fax (905-546-4841), or
- In-person drop off at the Robert Thomson Building (Same location as mailing address above)

For questions pertaining to COVID-19 vaccine records, individuals can email phsproofofvax@hamilton.ca or phone HPHS’s Vaccine Program Records Line - 905-540-5250 (Note: Proof of vaccination will not be accepted over email or phone due to privacy and security concerns).

If the COVID-19 vaccine product used for a previous dose is unknown, a new vaccine series should be started with a Health Canada authorized COVID-19 vaccine.

Federal Quarantine Upon Arrival

A quarantine exemption only applies to those who have completed a series of Health Canada approved vaccines. If an individual has recovered from COVID-19, they still need a full series of an accepted Health Canada approved COVID-19 vaccine or combination of accepted vaccines. If an individual has only had one dose of an accepted vaccine other than Janssen/Johnson & Johnson, they do not qualify for the fully vaccinated federal traveler exemption.

Access to Vaccine Record

As of September 22nd, 2021, proof of vaccination will be required to access certain businesses and venues. Vaccination receipts for printing or downloading, can be obtained through the provincial appointment booking portal. Those who need support obtaining a copy of their vaccination receipt, including those who do not have access to a computer or printer, can call the Provincial Vaccine Contact Centre: 1-833-943-3900 or Hamilton Public Health Service’s COVID-19 Vaccine Hotline: 905-974-9848, option 7

Additional support for those without access to a computer or printer is available through all Hamilton Public Library branches. Individuals can print their proof of vaccination through a public library computer or by using a branch’s Wi-Fi to send their proof of vaccination to a branch printer via a personal cellphone, laptop, or tablet. A library card is not needed to access this service.
Guidance Documents

- **Guidance for Individuals Vaccinated Outside of Ontario** -

- **Proof of Vaccination Guidance for Businesses** -

- **World Health Organization Authorized Vaccines** -

- **Federal COVID-19 Quarantine Exemptions** -

- **Provincial Vaccine Appointment Booking Portal & Vaccine Receipts** -
  https://covid19.ontariohealth.ca/