

Vaccine Administration – *What to Expect at Your Pharmacy*

Pharmacists and pharmacy technicians in Ontario can administer certain vaccines by injection. *Here's what you can expect when receiving a vaccine from a pharmacy professional.*



Step 1: Check if the Service is Available

Healthcare services may vary by pharmacy. Before your visit, contact your pharmacy to ask:

- What injection service(s) they offer and if you are eligible
- Whether you need a prescription from your healthcare provider before receiving the vaccine
- Whether you need an appointment to receive the vaccine

If the service isn't available, they can assist by suggesting alternative ways to access care, such as directing you to another pharmacy or healthcare provider.



For most vaccines, patients must be at least five years old to receive a vaccine from a pharmacy professional. Not all vaccines or vaccination services available at pharmacies are publicly funded. The pharmacy professional can explain your eligibility for publicly funded vaccines and where they can be accessed (for example, from your primary care provider or local public health unit).



Step 2: Assessment

Before you receive a vaccine, a pharmacist will review your vaccination status to ensure the vaccine is right for you.

As part of the assessment, you may be asked:

- Your age
- Your medical needs
- Your medical history

The pharmacist, like other healthcare professionals, will use their professional judgment to determine if the vaccine is appropriate for you.



Bring any vaccination records you have, such as your personal immunization record (yellow immunization card), to the pharmacy. This will help the pharmacist determine which vaccines you have already received.



Step 3: Next Steps

If the pharmacist determines that the vaccine is appropriate for you and that it will be administered, you will receive the vaccine in an environment that:

- Is clean, safe and private
- Protects your confidentiality and dignity



The pharmacy professional will inform your primary healthcare provider (if you have one) about the vaccine(s) administered. If you bring your paper immunization record (yellow immunization card), they can help you update it (if applicable).

Still Have Questions?

If you have questions about vaccine services, contact your pharmacy.
For more information on how pharmacy professionals can support your care, please [visit our website](#).