

## Changing the Way We Work

May 23, 2025: Infectious Disease and Opportunities for Improving the Way We Work

Panelists: Dr. Allison McGeer, Dr. Tara Kiran

Moderator: Dr. Ali Damji

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### What is NACI's guidance on COVID-19 boosters this spring?

Second boosters this spring are recommended for those at highest risk: seniors in congregate living, those 80+, or immunocompromised.

### Any word on updated COVID-19 vaccines for the fall?

Yes, we expect updated monovalent vaccines targeting newer variants to be available in the fall.

### Will next year's flu vaccine protect against the current circulating strains?

We expect so—strain selection happens in February each year based on global surveillance. It is a prediction, but generally close.

### Why are we seeing so many cases of pertussis this year?

Waning immunity and reduced exposure during pandemic may contribute. Also gaps in childhood vaccination.

### Are we still recommending masks for health care providers?

It depends on the setting. Many facilities still encourage or mandate masking during respiratory season.

*These additional questions and comments were answered live during the session. To view responses, please refer to the session recording.*

- Can you please talk about metformin dosing/duration for COVID-19 vs Paxlovid. Can we give both to prevent Long COVID?
- What's the plan for COVID-19 boosters in the fall? Will we be providing last year's vaccine since a new one hasn't been approved?
- Apparently, there are a lot of COVID-19 cases in Asia driven by a new variant. Are we starting to see more COVID-19 here in Canada and if so, is it being caused by the same variant?
- What is the effectiveness of two doses of the MMR vaccine and the duration of immunity from measles? Why are people with two doses of the vaccine getting measles? Should you get a third booster as a health-care worker?

- Should adults born between 1970 and mid 1980s be presumed to have received only one dose of the vaccine and should they be offered an MMR vaccine now?
- Do immunocompromised adults who have had two doses of chicken pox vaccine (and never had chicken pox) need the shingles vaccine?
- Do you think Shingrix should be given to average-risk patients at age 50 like the product monograph says? Or wait until age 65? I heard a report on the news about a new study that shows the prevention of heart disease after Shingrix. Is this true?
- Should we give Prevnar 20 to patients who previously received Prevnar 13?
- Philpott's idea sounds wonderful, but how will it be funded and paid for?
- All the new legislation does is restate its purpose to "establish the Government of Ontario's vision for primary care." Isn't this just fluff?
- Do these countries all have solely publicly funded health care, or is there a co-pay?
- How are family doctors remunerated in those European systems? Between paperwork and losing out of basket preventive premiums it's hard to make ends meet.