

COVID-19 pandemic - Constant increase in cases and improved vaccination offer

October 12, 2022, 2:30 pm

Published by: [Office of the Minister of Health](https://www-quebec-ca.translate.goog/nouvelles/rechercher?tx_solr[filter][]=cabinets_et_pm:2622_x_tr_sl=fr&x_tr_tl=en&x_tr_hl=en&x_tr_pto=sc) ([https://www-quebec-ca.translate.goog/nouvelles/rechercher?tx_solr\[filter\]\[\]=cabinets_et_pm:2622_x_tr_sl=fr&x_tr_tl=en&x_tr_hl=en&x_tr_pto=sc](https://www-quebec-ca.translate.goog/nouvelles/rechercher?tx_solr[filter][]=cabinets_et_pm:2622_x_tr_sl=fr&x_tr_tl=en&x_tr_hl=en&x_tr_pto=sc))

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QUEBEC CITY , Oct. 12 , 2022 /CNW Telbec/ - During a press briefing, the Minister of Health and Social Services, Christian Dubé, accompanied by the National Director of Public Health, Dr. Luc Boileau , provided an update on the current situation of COVID-19, in particular on the upward trend in the number of new cases for the fall period.

This increase is explained, among other things, by the return of the cold period and several gatherings taking place indoors. The situation is therefore subject to special monitoring. The minister reiterated the importance of getting a booster dose and wearing a mask when showing symptoms.

Vaccination

Receiving a booster dose is a good opportunity for citizens to boost their immunity. All people whose last dose of COVID-19 vaccine was more than five months ago or who had COVID-19 more than three months ago are encouraged to take advantage of this vaccination in order to reduce the serious risks associated with COVID-19, and particularly people who are part of the clientele more vulnerable to complications.

Also, Pfizer's new bivalent vaccine against the BA.4 and BA.5 subvariants was approved last week by Health Canada . This vaccine will be available from October 17 for all people aged 12 and over. Quebec will initially receive nearly 600,000 doses of this new vaccine, and other arrivals are planned on a regular basis thereafter. Note that all approved vaccines are very safe and effective in the fight against COVID-19.

Remember that the influenza vaccination campaign began last week and that simultaneous appointments with the COVID-19 vaccine are possible depending on the availability of vaccines. It should be noted, however, that the free influenza vaccine is subject to certain eligibility conditions. Several time slots are available on Health Click.

Quote:

"With winter approaching and the reduction of outdoor activities, it remains essential to remain vigilant to avoid the multiplication of COVID-19 cases and clogging up our health network. I invite all Quebecers to continue to monitor their symptoms, to take the necessary steps to prevent the spread of the disease, and above all to get their booster doses as soon as they are eligible to maintain good immunity. . It is important to receive all scheduled doses of COVID-19 vaccine to have the best protection against variants of COVID-19. »

Christian Dubé, Minister of Health and Social Services

Highlights:

- Pfizer's bivalent vaccine specifically targets Omicron's BA.4 and BA.5 subvariants. It is the second bivalent vaccine approved by Health Canada after that of Moderna last September.
- Remember that during periods of increased transmission of the COVID-19 virus, several measures are recommended to limit the spread:

- 8 self-isolate if symptoms appear and take a rapid screening test;
- always wear a mask in the presence of others when obtaining a positive result for a screening test;
- o respect the distance;
- o apply recognized hygiene measures, particularly hand washing.

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Dernière mise à jour : 12 octobre 2022



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