

# Study supports third vaccination for seniors

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Dawn Bowdish and Andrew Costa, researchers with Canada's Global Nexus for Pandemics and Biological Threats, have shared important initial findings from an unpublished study on COVID-19 immunity responses in Ontario long-term care facility residents.

The unpublished study, conducted between March and July 2021, three to four months after residents received their second vaccination dose, presents new and comprehensive information on the ways that older adults are able to develop immunity protection.

"The vaccines are working, given that over 90 per cent of residents studied create an initial [immune response](#)" said Costa, co-lead of the Canada's Global Nexus task force on Long-Term Care Crisis Management and Renewal, and Schlegel Chair in Clinical Epidemiology and Aging.

"The critical new science sheds light on what happens after vaccination, and the steps we need to take right now to protect some seniors who remain at risk of infection."

Acting on the new learning can prevent deaths, said Bowdish, research program co-lead for Canada's Global Nexus, and Canada Research Chair in Aging & Immunity.

"We know now that some long-term care residents – for reasons that may be related to other [health conditions](#) or simply to age-related changes in the body – remain vulnerable to future COVID-19 infection even after two vaccine doses."

While the reasons for these differences in immune response will be a focus for this continuing study, the implications are clear: third-dose boosters should be provided immediately to long-term care residents and other immunocompromised groups.

Secondarily, the study also found greater effectiveness in those receiving Moderna doses in comparison to those who received the Pfizer vaccine. This recommends the immediate deployment of potentially expiring Moderna supply to reduce risks of breakthrough infection and variant

spread in long-term care facilities.

Provided by McMaster University

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