

April 6, 2022

Re: COVID-19 Vaccine Updates

1. Second Booster Dose Recommendations

- The National Advisory Committee on Immunization (NACI) has released a recommendation on the provision of second boosters to those at highest risk.
- Manitoba will now begin to offer second booster doses to those who are:
 - 70 years of age and older living in the community
 - Living in personal care homes or elderly person housing congregate living sites (such as supportive housing and assisted living) with no age limit
 - Indigenous people (First Nations, Inuit or Metis) aged 50 years of age and older regardless of where they live
- It is recommended that the second booster dose be offered at least 6 months after the first booster.
- For most people, the second booster dose will be their fourth dose of vaccine. However, for immunocompromised people who received an initial series of three vaccine doses to offer stronger protection against COVID-19, the second booster would be their fifth dose. This dose should also be given six months after their first booster.
- The booster can be provided using either the Pfizer (Comirnaty™) or Moderna (Spikevax™) half dose (50mcg). Note that the Moderna full dose is not preferred for second boosters in any age group. Novavax (Nuvaxovid™) can be used, when available, for those who are unable or unwilling to have the mRNA vaccine.
- Please find links below to view the NACI statements.

2. Moderna 6-11 years of age Health Canada Approval

- Health Canada has expanded the indication for the Moderna (Spikevax™) COVID-19 vaccine to include those 6-11 years of age. Moderna (Spikevax™) can be used in this age group with a half dose (50mcg, 0.25ml). Two doses are indicated at a recommended interval of 8 weeks between doses.
- In Manitoba, either Pfizer 10mcg (Comirnaty™) or Moderna (Spikevax™) half dose (50mcg) COVID-19 vaccines can be used for those in this age group.

(Note: Pfizer 10mcg (Comirnaty™) is approved for use in those 5 -11 years of age while Moderna (Spikevax™) is only approved down to 6 years of age).

- NACI preferentially recommends Pfizer/Comirnaty in this age group because there is more experience and data available from real-world use in this age group with the Pfizer/Comirnaty product.
- Please find links below to resources such factsheets and product monographs for more information about this product.
- Reminder: The tariff code for Moderna COVID-19 Vaccine - 50mcg 0.25ml - half dose is 8293.

Available links to clinical resources and product information:

- The Clinical Practice Guidelines: <https://manitoba.ca/covid19/vaccine/healthcare-professionals.html> *Please continue to check the website for updated materials to reflect the above information*
- COVID-19 Factsheets for download at: <https://manitoba.ca/covid19/vaccine/resources.html#factsheets> *Please continue to check the website for updated materials to reflect the above information*
- Product Monographs: <https://www.gov.mb.ca/covid19/vaccine/resources.html>.
- National Advisory Committee on Immunization: <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/immunization/national-advisory-committee-on-immunization-naci.html>
- Canadian Immunization Guide – COVID-19 Chapter: <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/publications/healthy-living/canadian-immunization-guide-part-4-active-vaccines/page-26-covid-19-vaccine.html>
- Immunization and Biologics Tariff Listing: https://www.gov.mb.ca/health/publichealth/surveillance/immunization/docs/mims_tariff_codes.pdf

Please share this information with all relevant colleagues in your facility/clinic.

Sincerely,

“Original signed by”

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