

December 1, 2021

TO: Saskatchewan Health Authority
Indigenous Services Canada- Saskatchewan Region
Northern Intertribal Health Authority
Saskatchewan Medical Association
College of Registered Nurses of Saskatchewan
Saskatchewan College of Pharmacy Professionals
Saskatchewan College of Paramedics
Saskatchewan College of Respiratory Therapists
Saskatchewan Association of Licensed Practical Nurses
College of Physicians and Surgeons of Saskatchewan
Registered Psychiatric Nurses Association of Saskatchewan
Drug Plan and Extended Benefits Branch

Re: COVID-19 Vaccine Booster Information and Additional Information

Dear Colleagues:

The Government of Saskatchewan is providing information below on booster dose expansion and clarification, three dose primary series for immune compromised individuals, and pediatric vaccine clarification.

Effective **immediately**, the following individuals are eligible to receive third/booster doses as noted in **Table 1**.

Table 1: Populations Eligible for Booster Doses Immediately

Population
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Those living in:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ homeless and other emergency shelters○ group homes○ mental health residential care○ correctional institutions○ seniors' assisted living

Three-dose mRNA Primary Series for Immune Compromised Individuals

A three-dose (Moderna – 0.5 ml or Pfizer BioNTech – 0.3 ml) primary mRNA COVID-19 vaccine series with each dose given 28 days apart is recommended for moderately to severely immune compromised individuals 12 years and older. The National Advisory Committee on Immunization (NACI) provides a list of moderate to severe immunue compromised conditions (September 10, 2021, <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/immunization/national-advisory-committee-on-immunization-naci/statement-september-10-2021-additional-dose-covid-19-vaccine-immunocompromised-following-1-2-dose-series.html#a5>).

Moderna Dosing for Booster Vaccines

NACI's October 29, 2021, statement about Moderna booster dosing guidelines are to be implemented **immediately** (<https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/immunization/national-advisory-committee-on-immunization-naci/recommendations-use-covid-19-vaccines/statement-guidance-booster-doses.html>).

When Moderna is provided as a booster dose, regardless of the type of vaccine used for the primary series, the following dosages are recommended:

- 0.5 mL for those 70 and over;
- 0.5 mL for all Long Term Care (Special Care Homes), Personal Care Homes and Seniors' Assisted Living residents, regardless of age; and
- 0.25 mL for all others prioritized for booster doses (except for third doses for those who are immune compromised. See above re three dose primary series for immune compromised.)

General Statements on Booster Vaccines.

- Booster doses should be mRNA vaccine unless there is a contraindication.
- Use the same mRNA vaccine used in the primary series as a booster dose, if possible. However, if the same vaccine is not available either mRNA vaccine may be used (Table 2).

Booster doses for those who received two doses of AstraZeneca (AZ)/COVISHIELD as their primary series.

It is recommended that people who received two doses of AZ/COVISHIELD as their primary series receive an mRNA booster vaccine at least six months after completion of their primary series. AstraZeneca vaccine could be given to those for whom there is a contraindication to an mRNA.

Booster doses for those who received a single Janssen vaccine dose.

It is recommended that an mRNA vaccine booster be given at least two months after the single primary dose of Janssen vaccine was received for those aged 18 years and over.

Optimal Interval between first and second doses for those five years and older

For people aged five years and older, it is recommended by NACI (October 22, 2021, <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/immunization/national-advisory-committee-on-immunization-naci/recommendations-use-covid-19-vaccines.html#t3> and November 19, 2021, [https://www.canada.ca/content/dam/phac-aspc/documents/services/immunization/national-advisory-committee-on-immunization-naci/recommendations-use-covid-19-vaccines/pfizer-biontech-10-mcg-children-5-11-years-age.pdf](https://www.canada.ca/content/dam/phac-aspc/documents/services/immunization/national-advisory-committee-on-immunization-naci/recommendations-use-covid-19-vaccines/pfizer-biontech-10-mcg-children-5-11-years-age/pfizer-biontech-10-mcg-children-5-11-years-age.pdf)) that an eight week interval is optimal between first and second doses, but the minimum interval of 28 days for those aged 12+ and 21 days for those aged five to 11 years will still be provided in Saskatchewan if people choose the shorter interval.

Co-administration of Other Vaccines and COVID-19 Vaccines for 5 to 11 years

For children five to 11 years, in Saskatchewan co-administration of COVID-19 vaccines and other vaccines may occur with parental consent. This differs from NACI recommendations (November 19, 2021) that children receive the pediatric Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine at least 14 days before or after another vaccine. The NACI recommendation is a precaution to help to determine if a side effect that may arise is due to the COVID-19 vaccine or another vaccine.

Clarity on pediatric vaccine administration: Second doses for 11 year olds

For children 11 years old (born in 2009) who previously received a 12+ years dose of Pfizer vaccine, provide the vaccine formulation appropriate for the child's age upon presentation for their second dose. (i.e., if the child has turned 12, give the 12+ years formulation dose. If the child is still 11, give the pediatric [five-11 years] formulation).

Sincerely,



Dr. Saqib Shahab
Chief Medical Health Officer

Table 2: Additional COVID-19 Dose Recommendations

Dose 1	Dose 2	Dose 3
COVISHIELD	COVISHIELD	Pfizer
COVISHIELD	COVISHIELD	Moderna
COVISHIELD	AstraZeneca	Pfizer
COVISHIELD	AstraZeneca	Moderna
AstraZeneca	AstraZeneca	Pfizer
AstraZeneca	AstraZeneca	Moderna
AstraZeneca	COVISHIELD	Pfizer
AstraZeneca	COVISHIELD	Moderna
COVISHIELD	Pfizer	Pfizer
COVISHIELD	Moderna	Moderna
AstraZeneca	Pfizer	Pfizer
AstraZeneca	Pfizer	Moderna
AstraZeneca	Moderna	Moderna
AstraZeneca	Pfizer	Moderna
Pfizer	Pfizer	Pfizer
Pfizer	Moderna	Moderna
Pfizer	Moderna	Pfizer
Pfizer	Pfizer	Moderna
Moderna	Moderna	Moderna
Moderna	Pfizer	Pfizer
Moderna	Pfizer	Moderna
Moderna	Moderna	Pfizer
Pfizer	AstraZeneca	Pfizer
Pfizer	COVISHIELD	Pfizer
Moderna	AstraZeneca	Moderna
Moderna	COVISHIELD	Moderna
Janssen/Johnson & Johnson	Pfizer	
Janssen/Johnson & Johnson	Moderna	

Notes:

1. AstraZeneca may be given to individuals who have a contraindication to mRNA vaccines.
2. AstraZeneca vaccine is only available from Public Health.
3. Some individuals may have received 2 doses of Janssen/Johnson & Johnson vaccines.