

June 4, 2021

TO: Medical Health Officers
Public Health Nurse Managers
Immunization Coordinators
SHA EOC
Saskatchewan College of Paramedics
Registered Psychiatric Nurses
Association of Saskatchewan

College of Physicians and Surgeons of Saskatchewan
Saskatchewan College of Pharmacy Professionals
Saskatchewan College of Respiratory Therapists
Saskatchewan Registered Nurses Association
Saskatchewan Association of Licensed Practical Nurses
Drug Plan and Extended Benefits Branch

Re: Discontinuation of COVID-19 immunization Risk/Benefit Forms for Special Populations

Dear Colleagues:

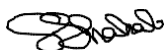
Previously, individuals who are pregnant, breastfeeding, immunosuppressed or have an autoimmune condition were required to sign a health condition-specific COVID-19 immunization risk/benefit form that stated that a complete COVID-19 vaccine series may be offered if a risk assessment deems that benefits outweigh the risks and the individual has been informed by the health care provider to make an informed decision.

These immunization risk/benefit forms are no longer required in these populations prior to immunization. In the National Advisory Committee on Immunization's (NACI) latest statement *Recommendations on the Use of COVID-19 Vaccines* (May 23, 2021), NACI preferentially recommends that a complete COVID-19 vaccine series with an mRNA COVID-19 vaccine should be offered to individuals in the authorized age group who are immunosuppressed due to disease or treatment, pregnant, breastfeeding or have an autoimmune condition. This recommendation is based on emerging safety and immunogenicity evidence of mRNA COVID-19 vaccines in these populations. If they are not able to receive an mRNA vaccine, for example because of an allergy, another authorized COVID-19 vaccine should be offered.

The Saskatchewan Immunization Manual COVID-19 vaccine pages and the *COVID – 19 Vaccine Contraindications and Precautions Background Document* posted on the COVID-19 Immunization Manual website are updated to reflect these practice changes.

Please share this letter with staff and colleagues. Thank you for your cooperation.

Sincerely,



Dr. Saqib Shahab
Chief Medical Health Officer

