



MEMORANDUM

To: Regional Health Authorities
From: Dr. Janice Fitzgerald, Chief Medical Officer of Health
Date: October 21, 2022
Subject: COVID-19 Vaccine Update

On October 7, 2022, Health Canada authorized the use of Pfizer Comirnaty Bivalent COVID-19 vaccine as a booster dose of 30mcg (0.3 mL) for adults 12 years of age and older. The Pfizer bivalent vaccine protects against the original and BA.4/BA.5 Omicron variants of COVID-19.

Moderna Spikevax Bivalent COVID-19 vaccine is authorized for individuals 18 years of age and older and those 12 years of age and older who are considered to be high-risk for severe COVID-19 disease outcomes. The booster dose is 50mcg (0.5mL). The Moderna bivalent vaccine protects against the original and BA1/Omicron variants of COVID-19. Moderna bivalent vaccine has been offered to residents of NL since September 2022.

NL anticipates receiving an adequate supply of both bivalent vaccines to offer to all individuals eligible to receive it. Individuals will be encouraged to receive their booster dose 20 weeks from their last vaccine dose and 3 months from COVID-19 infection. Epidemiology and viral factors (e.g. new circulating variants of concern (VOCs)) may necessitate a change in the dose interval in the future and HCS will provide updates as warranted.

Fall booster vaccines can be given at the same time as other immunizations for individuals 5 years of age and older. This includes the seasonal flu vaccine. Effective Friday, October 28, 2022, appointments for fall COVID-19 boosters for either Moderna or Pfizer vaccine will be available through Regional Health Authorities, pharmacists and physicians.

NACI continues to recommend a primary series with an authorized mRNA vaccine in all authorized age groups as well as a booster dose for individuals 5 years of age and older. At this time, individuals between the ages of 5 and 11 will receive the original strain of COVID-19 vaccine as their booster dose.

The Department of Health and Community Services (HCS) continues to collaborate with the Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC) and other provinces and territories to monitor the global COVID-19 situation. The epidemiology of COVID-19 continues to change and it is possible that the incidence of COVID-19 may increase in the fall and winter seasons and that new variants of concern may emerge. HCS will continue to provide updates as they become available. Visit the [COVID-19 website](#) for more information on provincial COVID-19 vaccine recommendations.