

SUBJECT: Fall 2023 Vaccines – COVID-19 Update

Date: October 10, 2023

Pages: 3 (including attachment)

To: Physicians, Hospitals, Pharmacies, Long Term Care, Retirement Homes

From: Dr. Matthew Tenenbaum, Associate Medical Officer of Health

- Updated mRNA vaccines from Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna will both be used for this fall's COVID-19 vaccination campaign.
- **Please use WDGPH's Vaccine Order form for both vaccines.** Single-dose syringes can also be ordered for pick-up.
- **Anyone age 5 or older should receive a single dose, ≥6 months (min. 3 months) after their last vaccine dose.**
- **For children age 6 months to 4 years,** the recommendations depend on their previous COVID-19 vaccination history.

On September 28, 2023, Health Canada approved the updated Pfizer-BioNTech COMIRNATY vaccine that targets the XBB.1.5 lineage. This vaccine will be available in three different formulations, each for a different age group.

Both Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna vaccines will be available to order from WDGPH this fall. The updated Moderna vaccine is available as a single formulation.

	Pfizer-BioNTech COMIRNATY			Moderna SPIKEVAX	
Cap Colour	Maroon	Blue	Gray	Royal Blue	
Label Colour	Maroon	Blue	Gray	Coral Blue	
Dilution Needed	Yes	No	No	No	
Ages	6mo – 4y	5-11y	12y+	6mo – 11y	12y+
Dose	3 mcg (0.2 mL)	10 mcg (0.3 mL)	30 mcg (0.3 mL)	25 mcg (0.25 mL)	50 mcg (0.5 mL)
Doses per Vial	10	6	6	10	5
Storage (Pre-Puncture)	Up to 10 weeks at 2-8°C Up to 12 hrs at 8-25°C			Up to 30 days at 2-8°C Up to 24 hrs at 8-25°C	
Storage (Post-Puncture)	Up to 12 hrs at 2-25°C			Up to 24 hrs at 2-25°C	

Ordering Vaccine

Please use the previously circulated [Fall 2023 COVID-19 Vaccine Order Form](#) to order the updated Pfizer or Moderna vaccines. Please fax to **519-823-4903** with attached temp logs. To order single-dose syringes for pick up at select clinic locations, please [use this link](#).

Vaccination Recommendations for Fall 2023 (see attached table for additional details)

For adults, adolescents, and children over 5:

- Regardless of a patient's COVID-19 vaccination history, they should receive a single dose of an updated (XBB) vaccine this fall, ≥ 6 months after their last dose.

For children 6 months to 4 years of age:

- Vaccine recommendations depend on a patient's previous vaccination history
- *If a patient has already completed their primary series (2-3 doses):*
 - They should receive a single dose of an updated (XBB) vaccine this fall, ≥ 6 months after their last dose.
- *If a patient has not completed their primary series:*
 - They should complete their series this fall with an updated (XBB) vaccine, using 8-week intervals between doses.
 - Once series is complete, no further doses are recommended this fall (unless IC).

Moderately to Severely Immunocompromised (IC) individuals

Moderately to severely immunocompromised individuals should receive an *additional* dose of an updated (XBB) vaccine this fall (8-week interval) if they have not previously been vaccinated.

Suggested Interval following COVID-19 infection

Individuals who have had a previous COVID-19 infection should receive their next vaccine dose:

- 3-6 months after their infection, if they have previously been vaccinated;
- 8 weeks after their infection, if they have not previously been vaccinated or if they are in the process of completing their primary series.

Please refer to Ministry of Health guidance for exceptions related to immunocompromised individuals or individuals with a history of multisystem inflammatory syndrom (MIS-C or MIS-A).

Additional Resources

- [Pfizer-BioNTech COMIRNATY XBB.1.5 Product Monograph](#)
- [Moderna SPIKEVAX XBB.1.5 Product Monograph](#)
- NACI Statements:
 - [Guidance on the use of COVID-19 vaccines in the fall of 2023](#) (July 11, 2023)
 - [Addendum to the guidance on the use of COVID-19 vaccines in the fall of 2023](#) (September 12, 2023)
- [Ministry of Health COVID-19 Vaccine Guidance \(September 22, 2023\)](#)
[will be revised shortly to include the updated Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine]
- [WDGPH Physician Advisory: Fall 2023 Vaccines – COVID-19 \(September 25, 2023\)](#)

For more information, please contact:

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