

March 2, 2022

COVID-19 Vaccine: mRNA vaccine supply update and updated interchangeability guidance for individuals aged ≥ 30 years

Manitoba now has sufficient Pfizer/Comirnaty™ vaccine supply. Therefore, there is no longer a need to preserve Pfizer/Comirnaty™ (30 mcg) for individuals aged 12 to ≤ 29 years.

Consistent with the National Advisory Committee on Immunization (NACI), the updated provincial guidance for selecting/interchanging COVID-19 mRNA vaccines (Moderna/Spikevax™ or Pfizer/Comirnaty™) is as follows:

For adults aged ≥ 30 years:

- **For the primary series (dose 1 and dose 2):** when the first dose in a COVID-19 vaccine primary series is an mRNA vaccine (Moderna/Spikevax™ or Pfizer/Comirnaty™), the same mRNA vaccine product should be offered for the subsequent dose if readily available. When the same mRNA vaccine product is not readily available, or is unknown, another mRNA COVID-19 vaccine product can be considered interchangeable and should be offered to complete the series.
- **For the booster dose:** either mRNA vaccine (Moderna/Spikevax™ or Pfizer/Comirnaty™) may be used, regardless of which COVID-19 vaccine was previously given for the primary series.

For moderately to severely immunocompromised adults aged ≥ 30 years:

- **For the primary series (dose 1, dose 2 and dose 3):** when the first dose in a COVID-19 vaccine primary series is an mRNA vaccine (Moderna/Spikevax™ or Pfizer/Comirnaty™), the same mRNA vaccine product should be offered for subsequent doses if readily available. Moderna/Spikevax™ (100 mcg) induces somewhat higher antibody levels compared to Pfizer/Comirnaty™ (30 mcg). Protection against infection and severe disease from a primary series with Moderna/Spikevax™ (100 mcg) may be more durable than Pfizer/Comirnaty™ (30 mcg).
- **For the booster dose:** either mRNA vaccine (Moderna/Spikevax™ or Pfizer/Comirnaty™) may be used, regardless of which COVID-19 vaccine was previously given for the primary series. Moderna/Spikevax™ (100 mcg) may be preferred; this is based on clinical discretion.

For adolescents/young adults aged 12 to ≤ 29 years (including those with moderate to severe immunocompromise):

- Pfizer/Comirnaty™ continues to be recommended to start or continue the vaccine series, including where third doses and/or booster doses are indicated, to mitigate the risk of myocarditis/pericarditis.

For children aged 5 to ≤ 11 years:

- Only Pfizer/Comirnaty™ (10 mcg – pediatric formulation) is authorized for use in children aged 5 to ≤ 11 years.

Manitoba public health officials continue to assess product specific booster dose effectiveness data; any updates to clinical guidance and public-facing resources will be made available online at www.gov.mb.ca/covid19/vaccine/index.html and in the provincial Clinical Practice Guidelines available at www.gov.mb.ca/asset_library/en/covidvaccine/clinical_practice_guidelines.pdf.

The Manitoba COVID-19 Vaccine: Clinical Practice Guidelines for Immunizers and Health Care Providers is being updated to reflect the (above) revised provincial clinical practice guidance; version 27 will be available on the website (link directly above) in the coming days.

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

Sincerely,

“Original signed by”

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