

July 20, 2022

## **COVID-19 Vaccine: approval/guidance for children aged 6 months to ≤ 4 years**

On July 14, 2022, Health Canada authorized the Moderna/Spikevax™ infant pediatric COVID-19 vaccine (25 mcg) for use in children aged six months to ≤ five years.

At this time, supply is limited but is anticipated to increase early August. Given the initial limited supply, Manitoba is introducing the infant pediatric vaccine Moderna/Spikevax™ (25 mcg/dose) to children aged 6 months to ≤ 4 years who are:

- First Nations, Métis and Inuit children aged 6 months to ≤ 4 years regardless of where they live
- Children aged 6 months to ≤ 4 years who have one of the following high risk conditions:
  - Chronic lung disease
  - Airway Abnormalities
  - Congenital/Chronic Heart or Circulatory disease
  - Moderately to severely immunocompromised due to a medical condition and/or treatment
  - Neurologic disorders including developmental delay
  - Diabetes (type 1 and 2)
  - Chronic Kidney Disease
  - Any Chronic Disease of Premature Birth

More information on Manitoba's eligibility criteria will be available at:

[www.gov.mb.ca/covid19/vaccine/eligibility-criteria.html](http://www.gov.mb.ca/covid19/vaccine/eligibility-criteria.html).

The National Advisory Committee on Immunization (NACI) recommends:

- A dosing interval of at least eight weeks between dose 1 and dose 2. The primary series for infants/children who are moderately to severely immunocompromised consists of three doses, with at least 28 days between dose 2 and dose 3.
- Infants must be at at minimum six months of age at the time of immunization.
- As a precautionary measure, waiting 14 days before or after the administration of another vaccine before administering a COVID-19 vaccine to prevent an erroneous attribution of an adverse event to one particular vaccine over another. Concomitant administration or a shortened interval is acceptable in certain circumstances (e.g., when school vaccines are already scheduled).
- Children who are 5 years of age may receive either Moderna/Spikevax™ (25 mcg) or Pfizer/Comirnaty (10 mcg). However, NACI preferentially recommends the use of Pfizer/Comirnaty (10 mcg) in children who are 5 years of age.

- If readily available, the same mRNA COVID-19 vaccine should be offered for all doses in the series. Children who start the series with Moderna/Spikevax™ (25 mcg) and turn six years of age before series completion, are recommended to receive Moderna/Spikevax™ (50 mcg) to complete the serie

More information on the NACI guidance/recommendation is available at:

[www.canada.ca/content/dam/phac-aspc/documents/services/immunization/national-advisory-committee-on-immunization-naci/recommendations-use-moderna-spikevax-covid-19-vaccine-children-6-months-5-years.pdf](http://www.canada.ca/content/dam/phac-aspc/documents/services/immunization/national-advisory-committee-on-immunization-naci/recommendations-use-moderna-spikevax-covid-19-vaccine-children-6-months-5-years.pdf).

Review the product monograph for information on the vaccine including the storage and stability at <https://www.gov.mb.ca/covid19/vaccine/resources.html#productmonographs>

**Access:** This infant pediatric vaccine will be offered through provincial and regional vaccine clinics, doctor's offices, pop-up community clinics and in First Nation communities. It is anticipated that access points and eligibility will expand to the general 6 month to ≤ 4 year old population as more supply becomes available.

**Communications:** A new provincial factsheet will be available in the coming days at: [www.gov.mb.ca/covid19/vaccine/resources.html](http://www.gov.mb.ca/covid19/vaccine/resources.html).

**Reporting doses administered:** All immunizations administered are to be recorded and reported with the correct product and strength to ensure accurate electronic immunization records.

- Physicans are to use tariff 8261 for Moderna/Spikevax™ infant pediatric (25 mcg) when billing for doses administered.

**Distribution and allocation:** Participating health care providers can order pediatric vaccine doses using the same method (via a weekly survey) as is done for the vaccine for adolescents/adults.

- If not yet registered as a COVID-19 vaccine immunizer, go to [www.manitoba.ca/covid19/vaccine/partners/index.html](http://www.manitoba.ca/covid19/vaccine/partners/index.html) to register.
- If already registered, Manitoba will be including requests for pediatric vaccine in the weekly surveys and the requests will be reviewed and filled accordingly.

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

Sincerely,

*“Original signed by”*

Richard Baydack, PhD  
**Director**  
**Communicable Disease Control**

*“Original signed by”*

Natalie Casclang MD, CCFP, FRCPC  
**Medical Officer of Health**