

December 24, 2021

COVID-19 Vaccine: updated third/booster dose interval for individuals aged ≥ 50 years and updated vaccine product for individuals aged ≥ 30 years

Updated third/booster dose interval for individuals aged ≥ 50 years:

Effective immediately, Manitoba public health officials recommend a third/booster dose for individuals aged ≥ 50 years, five months after their second dose. (NOTE: previously, individuals aged 50 to ≤ 59 years were advised to get a third/booster dose six months after their second dose and individuals aged ≥ 60 years were eligible if their second dose was administered on or before July 10, 2021). While evidence demonstrates that six to eight months is optimal for the strongest immune response, this must be balanced against the local context. The risk of local spread has increased and therefore, the benefit of earlier protection becomes more important.

Vaccine product for clients aged ≥ 30 years:

Effective December 29, 2021, Manitoba public health officials are advising that for individuals aged ≥ 30 years, Moderna/Spikevax™ should be offered to start and finish the COVID-19 vaccine series to ensure sufficient Pfizer/Comirnaty™ supply is available for adolescents/young adults. If a client refuses Moderna/Spikevax™ and would otherwise decline vaccination if only Moderna/Spikevax™ were available, Pfizer/Comirnaty™ may be given.

This information will be shared with the public next week but you are being notified now so that you can prepare your staff, processes and inventory in anticipation of the public notification. Please do not share this portion of this information further.

For individuals aged 12 to ≤ 29 years, Manitoba public health officials continue to preferentially recommend Pfizer/Comirnaty™ to start and finish the series to maximize the benefits while minimizing the risks of myocarditis/pericarditis among adolescents/young adults.

If your location has supply of Pfizer/Comirnaty™ with no or limited supply of Moderna/Spikevax™:

- Continue to offer Pfizer/Comirnaty™ to clients until your next shipment of vaccine supply arrives (early January).
- Order additional supply of Moderna/Spikevax™ at the next opportunity.

Please note, at any time where supply of one of the mRNA vaccines is not immediately available, do not delay a vaccine for anyone aged ≥ 18 years while awaiting supply. Both mRNA vaccine products are safe and effective and either can be used for adults in Manitoba if the preferred product is not available.

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Reimer', with a horizontal line extending to the right.

Joss Reimer, MD FRCPC MPH
Medical Lead, Vaccine Implementation Task Force