

**MEMORANDUM TO:** Physicians and Nurse Practitioners

**MEMORANDUM FROM:** Dr. Janice Fitzgerald, Chief Medical Officer of Health

**Date:** January 5, 2021

**SUBJECT:** Newfoundland and Labrador's COVID-19 Immunization Program

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Dear colleagues,

Newfoundland and Labrador's [COVID-19 immunization program](#) is following the recommendations from the [National Advisory Committee on Immunizations \(NACI\)](#) on the prioritization and use of COVID-19 vaccines. NACI has developed [detailed guidance](#) on the prioritization of initial doses of vaccine and has recently updated its [recommendations](#) on the use of vaccines. At this time, information on approved vaccine products and those awaiting approval is continuously evolving.

Details about the provincial immunization program is available on the [COVID-19 vaccine website](#) and is being updated regularly. There is a [dedicated section](#) on resources for Health Care Professionals. Specific information on regional immunization programs is available through the Regional Health Authorities.

Please refer to the accompanying memorandum with further information on considerations on the use of COVID-19 vaccines in individuals in priority groups who are pregnant, breastfeeding, immunosuppressed, or have an autoimmune condition.

Public health measures including wearing a mask, physical distancing, handwashing in addition to the recommendations from Occupational Health and Safety for health care and other workers on appropriate precautions and Personal Protective Equipment will continue to be a mainstay in reducing risk regardless of vaccination status. Until the vaccine has been widely implemented across the province and demonstrated to have been effective in controlling disease transmission, public health measures will be the primary means of protection of individuals who may be at risk of exposure.

**References:**

1. COVID-19 Immunization Plan for Newfoundland and Labrador: <https://www.gov.nl.ca/covid-19/vaccine/>
2. COVID-19 Vaccine Resources for Health Care Professionals in Newfoundland and Labrador (including links to vaccine product monographs): <https://www.gov.nl.ca/covid-19/vaccine/resources-for-health-care-professionals/>
3. NACI Guidance on the prioritization of initial doses of COVID-19 vaccine(s) (December 2020): <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/immunization/national-advisory-committee-on-immunization-naci/guidance-prioritization-initial-doses-covid-19-vaccines.html>
4. NACI Recommendations on the use of COVID-19 vaccines (December 23, 2020): <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/immunization/national-advisory-committee-on-immunization-naci/recommendations-use-covid-19-vaccines.html>