

MEMO

TO: Pharmacists and Community Physicians
FROM: Dr. Janice Fitzgerald, MD, MPH Chief Medical Officer of Health
DATE: June 9, 2021
SUBJECT: COVID-19 Vaccines

Pharmacists and Community Physicians can offer second dose COVID-19 vaccines to anyone who had a second dose appointment booked in public health between now and August 5 2021. Second dose COVID-19 vaccines should be offered a minimum of 8 weeks after the first dose, up to a maximum of 16 weeks between doses. Emerging evidence has shown that providing the second dose of COVID-19 vaccine at least 8 weeks after the first dose promotes a more robust immune response and may offer individuals stronger protection against COVID-19.

COVID-19 vaccination records administered in Newfoundland and Labrador are now available in HEALTHe NL and should be referenced prior to administration of a COVID-19 vaccination. COVID-19 vaccinations can be found under the 'Immunizations' tab of the patient record in HEALTHe NL. For more details on accessing a patient's immunization record in HEALTHe NL, please use the following reference guides:

EMR users: [HEALTHe-NL-from-EMR_Immunization-Tab.pdf \(edocsnl.ca\)](#)

Non-EMR users: [Quick Reference Guide HEALTHe NL Immunizations Tab.pdf \(nlchi.nl.ca\)](#)

For those who received an mRNA COVID-19 vaccine (Pfizer or Moderna) for first dose, the same mRNA vaccine should be offered as the second dose if possible. However, if the client shows up for an appointment and the vaccine they received for their first dose is not available or unknown, either mRNA (Pfizer or Moderna) vaccine can be offered. For those that received AstraZeneca/COVISHEILD as first dose, an mRNA (Pfizer or Moderna) or AstraZeneca/COVISHEILD can be offered as second dose.

If a rotational worker presents for an appointment prior to the 8 week dosing interval and states they will be out of province at 8 week date, vaccines can be given sooner than 8 weeks, but not earlier than 28 days after the first dose. If the rotational worker is currently in self isolation, please direct them to public health to book at a drive thru clinic designated for those in self-isolation.

At this time, Moderna vaccines are being distributed to community physicians and pharmacies. Communication will be provided from the Department of Health and Community Services as more vaccine becomes available.

For the most up to date information, please visit the COVID-19 vaccine Health Professionals page of our website at [Resources for Health Care Professionals - COVID-19 Vaccine \(gov.nl.ca\)](#)