

From: Dr. Janice Fitzgerald, Chief Medical Officer of Health

To: Pharmacists, Physicians and Other Primary Care Providers

Re: COVID-19 Vaccine Update

Date: November 25, 2021

Vaccination for ages 5 -11 years

On November 19, 2021, the National Advisory Committee for Immunization (NACI) provided recommendations on the use of Pfizer-BioNTech Comirnaty vaccine for 5-11 years of age. A different vaccine formulation will be used for this age group:

- Pfizer BioNTech Comirnaty vaccine for 5-11 years of age requires dilution with 1.3mLs of normal saline
- The dose for individuals aged 5-11 is 10mcg (0.2mLs). NACI is recommending an interval of 8 weeks between first and second doses.

Initially, administration of COVID-19 vaccine for ages 5-11 will be offered through the provincial public health program. As the province receives an increase in the supply of this vaccine, more information will be provided on the utilization of other healthcare providers in offering COVID-19 vaccine to ages 5-11.

Moderna Vaccination Update

As part of the provincial COVID-19 booster dose program, when determining appropriate dosing of Moderna Spikevax vaccine, additional measures are needed to ensure vaccine is appropriately withdrawn from the vial and administered within Health Canada and manufacturer recommendations. Currently in NL, Moderna Spikevax vaccine is available in 10mL and 15mL presentations. Manufacturers of Moderna Spikevax vaccine have sufficient data to support product sterility and stability up to 20 punctures from one vial. Based on this data, accessing a vial of Moderna Spikevax vaccine beyond 20 punctures is not recommended. Immunizers will need to track the number of punctures from each vial and discard all remaining vaccine within the vial once 20 punctures are reached. This issue will relate primarily to the 15mL presentation. The province does not expect to receive any additional doses of the 15mL presentation beyond what is available in our current provincial supply.

For Regional Health Authority healthcare providers using SEINET, doses of vaccine that are wasted as a result of a Moderna Spikevax vaccine vial being punctured 20 times will not need to be entered electronically.

Some of the Moderna Spikevax vaccine currently in the province has been approved for a 2-month extension on its expiry date. The lot numbers with new expiry dates are noted below:

Moderna Spikevax Lot #	New Expiry Date
042D21A	07 Feb 2022
043D21A	09 Feb 2022
044D21A	10 Feb 2022
045D21A	11 Feb 2022
085D21A	19 Feb 2022
092D21A	13 Feb 2022
093D21A	14 Feb 2022
016E21A	01 Mar 2022
018E21A	03 Mar 2022
019E21A	02 Mar 2022
020E21A	04 Mar 2022
047E21A	06 Mar 2022
016F21A	21 Mar 2022

Moderna Spikevax vaccine exposed to +2°C to +8°C will still follow current guidelines and expire 30 days after exposure to +2°C to +8°C or the expiry date mentioned above, whichever comes first. Punctured vials of Moderna Spikevax vaccine must be stored at +2°C to +25°C and be used within 24 hours of its first puncture.