

COR-2021-165045

**MEMO**

**TO:** Pharmacists, Physicians and Nurse Practitioners

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

**DATE:** December 13, 2021

**SUBJECT:** **Updated NACI Recommendations**

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On Friday, December 3, 2021, NACI released its latest COVID-19 vaccine recommendations for:

- Individuals 12 to 29 years
- Individuals 12 to 29 years who are moderately to severely immunocompromised
- Booster doses for individuals 18 years and older

**COVID-19 Vaccine Product Recommendation for Individuals 12 to 29 Years**

Based on new evidence, and in order to further minimize the rare risk of adolescents and young adults experiencing myocarditis and/or pericarditis after receiving a COVID-19 mRNA vaccine, NACI now makes the following recommendations for individuals 12 to 29 years:

- The preferential use of the Pfizer-BioNTech Comirnaty COVID-19 vaccine over the use of the Moderna Spikevax COVID-19 vaccine **to start a primary vaccine series and/or to complete a primary vaccine series.**
- The second dose of a primary series should be provided **8 weeks after the first dose.**

Emerging evidence suggests that a longer interval between the first and second dose of a primary series results in a stronger immune response and higher vaccine effectiveness and may also be associated with a lower risk of myocarditis and/or pericarditis in adolescents and young adults.

**Updated recommendations for immunocompromised individuals in the 12 to 29 year age group:**

- The Moderna Spikevax vaccine (100 mcg) may be considered for individuals 12 to 29 years of age who are moderately to severely immunocompromised.

This recommendation is based on new evidence that shows the Moderna Spikevax vaccine may have a slightly higher vaccine effectiveness and may provide longer protection against infection and severe COVID-19 outcomes compared to the Pfizer-BioNTech Comirnaty vaccine.

## Booster Dose Recommendations for Individuals 18 years and older

Latest evidence suggests vaccine effectiveness against infection with COVID-19, is decreasing over time following completion of the primary series. Based on NACI recommendations, in Newfoundland and Labrador a booster dose can be offered **at least 6 months after the completion of a primary COVID-19 vaccine series.**

A booster dose is **strongly recommended** for the following groups:

- Adults over 50 years
- Adults living in long-term care homes for seniors or other congregate living settings that provide care for seniors
- Recipients of a viral vector vaccine series completed with only viral vector vaccines (AstraZeneca/COVISHIELD or Janssen COVID-19 vaccine)
- Adults in or from First Nations, Inuit and Métis communities
- All frontline healthcare workers having direct in-person contact with patients

A booster dose **may be offered** to anyone:

- People aged 18 to 49 years

*Table 1: Summary of Booster Dose Recommendations, Products, and Dosing, NACI, December 3, 2021*

Age	Booster recommendations	Products and dose for booster	Product and dose for primary series
70 years and over	Should receive a booster	Moderna 100 mcg or Pfizer-BioNTech 30 mcg	Moderna 100 mcg or Pfizer-BioNTech 30 mcg
50 to 69 years	Should receive a booster	Moderna 50 mcg <sup>b,c</sup> or Pfizer-BioNTech 30 mcg	Moderna 100 mcg or Pfizer-BioNTech 30 mcg
30 to 49 years	May receive a booster <sup>a</sup>	Moderna 50 mcg <sup>b</sup> or Pfizer-BioNTech 30 mcg	Moderna 100 mcg or Pfizer-BioNTech 30 mcg
18 to 29 years	May receive a booster <sup>a</sup>	Pfizer-BioNTech 30 mcg may be preferred <sup>d</sup>	Pfizer-BioNTech 30 mcg is preferred <sup>d</sup>
12 to 17 years	Booster not recommended at this time	Not applicable	Pfizer-BioNTech 30 mcg is preferred <sup>d</sup>
5 to 11 years	Booster not recommended at this time	Not applicable	Pfizer-BioNTech 10 mcg

a. The following groups **should** receive a booster:

- Recipients of a viral vector vaccine series completed with only viral vector vaccines (AstraZeneca/COVISHIELD or Janssen COVID-19 vaccine)
- Adults in or from First Nations, Inuit and Métis communities
- Adults who are frontline healthcare workers (having direct close physical contact with patients)

b. If Moderna Spikevax is being used as a third dose for those who are moderately to severely immunocompromised, 100 mcg may be preferred

c. If Moderna Spikevax is being used as a booster for those living in long-term care homes for seniors or other congregate living settings that provide care for seniors, 100 mcg may be preferred

d. The Moderna Spikevax vaccine (100 mcg) may be considered for those who are moderately to severely immunocompromised given evidence that it may have a slightly higher vaccine effectiveness