



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

To: Physicians

Re: Offering Booster Doses of COVID-19 Vaccine

Date: December 20, 2021

The COVID-19 situation in the province has changed dramatically over the last seven days. The Omicron variant is spreading in certain areas of the province, and Public Health has introduced strengthened measures in an effort to minimize the impact of the variant on our population.

We know that a booster dose COVID-19 mRNA vaccine is an effective tool in reducing the risk of COVID-19, particularly the Omicron variant. However, with the recent surge in COVID-19 cases in the province, public health capacity is strained due to case and contact management and the ongoing paediatric vaccination campaign. Therefore, I am requesting your support to administer booster doses to eligible members of the population. You can administer the vaccine in your own clinics, your own mass clinics, or support the Regional Health Authorities as immunizers in their mass clinics.

A booster dose of COVID-19 mRNA vaccine can be offered to any individual 18 years of age and older, 22 weeks after completion of their primary series. The National Advisory Committee on Immunization (NACI) recommends those aged 18 to 29 years receive the Pfizer-BioNTech Comirnaty vaccine over Moderna Spikevax as a booster dose. Those 30 years of age and older may receive either Moderna Spikevax or Pfizer-BioNTech Comirnaty. There are no recommendations on booster doses for individuals who are unable to receive an mRNA vaccine at this time.

Due to limited national supply of Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine, only Moderna Spikevax will be available to physicians at this time. Those aged 18 to 29 years should be referred to public health clinics so they can receive the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine. Physicians can provide support in administering the Moderna Spikevax booster to individuals aged 30 years and older.

Appropriate dosing of the Moderna Spikevax vaccine will need to be considered when offering the booster dose. Individuals living in long-term care and other congregate living facilities, as well as individuals 70 years of age and older, should receive 100mcg (0.5mLs) for their booster dose. All other individuals should receive 50mcg (0.25mLs) for their booster dose.



Government of Newfoundland and Labrador
Department of Health and Community Services
Office of the Chief Medical Officer

I kindly ask that you consider participating in the COVID-19 booster dose campaign. If you are interested in offering booster doses to your patients and communities, I encourage you to get in touch with the Vice President responsible for Public Health at your Regional Health Authority to facilitate ordering and distribution of the vaccine.

Eastern Health: Judy O'Keefe Judy.OKeefe@easternhealth.ca

Central Health: Joanne Pelley Joanne.Pelley@centralhealth.nl.ca

Western Health: Carol Anne Wight carolannewight@westernhealth.nl.ca

Labrador-Grenfell Health: Antionette Cabot antionette.cabot@lghealth.ca

For further information on COVID-19 vaccines and booster doses, please refer to the information for health care professionals available on the COVID-19 vaccine website (<https://www.gov.nl.ca/covid-19/vaccine/>).

Thank you for your continued dedication to providing excellent care to the people of Newfoundland and Labrador through what has been a most challenging time.