

March 17, 2023

COVID-19 Spring Booster Recommendations

Dear Health Care Provider:

Manitoba Health has released eligibility criteria for spring COVID-19 booster doses, effective immediately. On March 3, 2023 the National Advisory Committee on Immunization (NACI) released recommendations on the administration of spring COVID-19 booster doses. The NACI recommendations can be found at: <https://www.canada.ca/content/dam/phac-aspc/documents/services/publications/vaccines-immunization/national-advisory-committee-immunization-guidance-additional-covid-19-booster-dose-spring-2023-individuals-high-risk-severe-illness-due-covid-19/statement.pdf>

Eligibility

Manitoba Health (MH) recommends those at highest risk can choose to receive a spring COVID-19 booster, specifically:

- Adults age 65 and older
- Indigenous people age 45 and older, including First Nations, Inuit and Metis peoples, regardless of place of residence
- Residents of long term care (LTC), assisted living or supportive housing facilities
- Adults age 18 and older who are moderately to severely immunocompromised

If an individual has not yet received a 2022 fall booster dose, they are still encouraged to get one.

Six months is the minimum interval between COVID-19 booster doses. Vaccine effectiveness increases with a longer duration between doses. People are also recommended to wait at least six months between a COVID-19 infection and receiving a booster dose. If a spring booster dose is administered, this may result in delayed eligibility for a fall booster dose and a less robust immune response if a fall booster dose is administered at a shorter interval (i.e., less than 6 months from the previous dose). It is anticipated that a fall 2023 COVID-19 booster program may be offered for the general population, pending NACI recommendations. These considerations need to be clearly communicated with clients.

Manitoba Health recommends offering a bivalent vaccine. If an individual chooses not to receive a bivalent booster option, they may be offered a monovalent booster dose, if available.

An updated provincial factsheet will be available in the coming days at:
<https://www.gov.mb.ca/covid19/public-resources.html>

Updated Quick Reference Guides are available at: <https://www.gov.mb.ca/covid19/health-care-providers.html>

Please share this information with colleagues at your facility/clinic.

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