

September 9, 2022

Bivalent COVID-19 Vaccine: Approval, Eligibility and Guidance

Dear Health Care Provider:

Effective September 1, 2022, Health Canada authorized the use of Moderna Bivalent COVID-19 vaccine as a booster dose for those 18 years of age and older. Recommendations from the National Advisory Committee on Immunization (NACI) on the use of the bivalent vaccine are available at: <https://www.canada.ca/content/dam/phac-aspc/documents/services/immunization/national-advisory-committee-on-immunizationnaci/recommendations-use-bivalent-Omicron-containing-mrna-covid-19-vaccines.pdf>.

Eligibility

Due to limited initial supply, the initial eligibility criteria for the bivalent vaccine are as follows:

1. Residents of personal care homes and congregate living settings (e.g., corrections, group homes, shelters, etc.)
2. Individuals aged 65 and older
3. Indigenous individuals aged 18 and older, regardless of where they live
4. Health care workers aged 18 and older, including fire/paramedic first responders
5. Individuals aged 18 and older with underlying medical conditions (those who are immunocompromised, pregnant, etc.)

At this point, the bivalent vaccine is only authorized as a booster dose. Individuals must complete their primary series of vaccine (usually two doses) before they can receive the bivalent vaccine.

In line with NACI recommendations that everyone 12 years and older be offered a fall booster dose, eligibility for the monovalent booster dose has been expanded to all individuals aged 12 and older. However, Manitoba Health recommends that individuals aged 18 and older wait to become eligible for the bivalent vaccine, as it provides increased protection against omicron variants.

Interval between Doses

It is recommended to wait six months from the last dose of a COVID-19 vaccine to receive a bivalent or monovalent booster dose. However, individuals who meet the eligibility criteria can receive a booster dose with a minimum of three months between doses.

Previous Infection

It is also recommended for individuals to wait 6 months since their last COVID-19 infection. At minimum, they need to be fully recovered before receiving a booster dose.

The updated product monograph is available at:

https://www.gov.mb.ca/asset_library/en/covidvaccine/moderna-bivalent-pm.pdf.

A new provincial factsheet will be updated, and it will be available at:

<https://www.gov.mb.ca/covid19/vaccine/resources.html#factsheets>.

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

Sincerely,

“Original Signed By”

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