

September 17, 2021

COVID-19 Vaccine: Additional Information on Third Doses

The following information is being provided in follow-up to the announcement and information shared on September 15th 2021, regarding guidance for third doses for:

1. people 12 years of age and older who are moderately to severely immunocompromised;
2. individuals who request a third dose to meet travel requirements in their destination; and
3. individuals who have received one or two doses of a vaccine that is not approved by Health Canada. (**NOTE:** Individuals who have received three doses of a COVID-19 vaccine are considered fully immunized).

Logistics of Who can Provide 3rd Doses

The use of third dose **for any reason**, is not an approved indication by Health Canada at this time (i.e., this is an off-label use). The status of provincial/national recommendations, the off-label status of third doses and the content of the ministerial order determined which providers can clinically assess, recommend and administer third doses at this time.

The following table describes which providers can give third doses for each of the three scenarios (as per above list). Details around when a prescription is **required** versus when other documentation is **recommended** (e.g., a letter), is also included.

	Supersites, pop-up clinics, mobile clinics	Medical Clinics	Community Pharmacies
1. Immunocompromised For examples, see page 28 of the Clinical Guidance		x <i>Note: If your physician is not administering the vaccine, request documentation to share with another physician or pharmacist*.</i>	x
2. Travel purposes		x	x Requires a prescription from a

			<i>licensed practitioner**</i>
3. Non-Health Canada approved vaccines	x	x	x
Additional Notes: <i>*All existing pharmacies/medical clinics that offer COVID-19 vaccine can provide a 3rd dose to an individual who is immunocompromised after an individual clinical assessment. However to assist in their clinical assessment, a letter from the main healthcare provider managing the individual's immunocompromising condition is very useful and may be required by some locations.</i> <i>**Third doses for travel purposes is not under the Ministerial Order and therefore, falls under section 110.1 and 110.2 of The Pharmaceutical Regulation, which stipulates that a prescription from an authorized practitioner is required.</i>			

Clinically Recommended 3rd Doses for Immunocompromised and After Receipt of Non-Health Canada Approved Vaccines

Consistent with national recommendations, Manitoba public health officials recommend third doses for individuals who:

- are moderately to severely immunocompromised; OR
- have received one or two doses of a vaccine not approved by Health Canada.

Studies assessing additional doses in immunocompromised individuals have primarily used mRNA vaccines, and some early data suggests Moderna may produce a stronger immune response that lasts longer. In all third dose indications (including mixed schedules using mRNA or viral vector vaccines), an mRNA vaccine is recommended (unless contraindicated), and the product (Pfizer vs Moderna) should be selected following a clinical assessment of the patient's individual circumstances. The minimum interval of the third dose from the preceding dose is 28 days.

Third dose to meet travel requirements

For the purposes of travel, there is **no clinical recommendation** that individuals who received a mixed schedule should receive an additional dose. However, in recognition that there may be broader considerations at play beyond the effectiveness of the vaccine series, individuals who received a mixed series may request a third dose so they can have two doses of the same mRNA vaccine. These individuals should have specific travel plans to a destination that requires people to be fully immunized with two doses of the same vaccine.

Individuals who have already received two doses of the same mRNA vaccine should not receive a third dose for travel purposes. Individuals without specific travel plans or, where their destination does not require them to receive another dose, should not receive a third dose for the purpose of travel. For example, at this time, the USA and Mexico do not have any vaccine requirements for entry although local jurisdictions

within the country may have their own specific rules. Individuals should review the requirements of their destination as these rules are regularly changing.

Future Considerations for Other Groups

Third doses for the general population are not recommended at this time. Guidance on the use of additional and/or booster doses of a COVID-19 vaccine for other high risk populations (such as Personal Care Home residents) including optimal timing, is being considered. NACI and Manitoba public health officials will continue to monitor the evidence and update guidance as required.

Additional information and guidance is available online:

- For health care providers, please refer to pages 27 to 30 of the updated (version 18) of the Clinical Practice Guidelines:
www.gov.mb.ca/asset_library/en/covidvaccine/clinical_practice_guidelines.pdf.
- For the public, the relevant vaccine factsheets are being updated and will be available in the coming days (www.gov.mb.ca/covid19/vaccine/resources.html) and effective today, updated information on the website is available at:
www.gov.mb.ca/covid19/vaccine/eligibility-criteria.html.

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

Sincerely,

“Original Signed by”

Joss Reimer, MD FRCPC MPH
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