

October 27, 2021

## **COVID-19 Vaccine: Booster/Third Dose Guidance and Expansion to Include Residents of Congregate Elderly Person Housing Sites**

Emerging evidence suggests that immunity to a complete series of COVID-19 vaccination wanes over time, at least with respect to symptomatic infection. Effectiveness for healthy individuals remains high against severe outcomes (e.g., hospitalization and death).

Effective October 27, 2021, residents of congregate elderly person housing sites (e.g., assisted living) are recommended to receive a booster dose of COVID-19 mRNA vaccine six months after their last COVID-19 vaccine. (Note that the interval for residents with moderate to severe immune compromise is  $\geq 28$  days after the second dose).

Booster doses of COVID-19 mRNA vaccine are recommended for the following specific circumstances in Manitoba:

- First Nations people living on reserve (6 month interval);
- individuals who have only received a viral vector vaccine (6 month interval);
- health care personnel who have direct contact with patients, residents or clients (6 month interval);
- people who are moderately to severely immunocompromised due to a medical condition and/or treatment ( $\geq 28$  day interval);
- individuals who have received one or two doses of a vaccine that is not approved by Health Canada ( $\geq 28$  day interval);
- residents of all personal care homes and congregate elderly person housing sites (6 month interval); and
- residents and staff of First Nation personal care homes (6 month interval).

Although there is no clinical recommendation that individuals who received a mixed schedule should receive an additional dose, people who are travelling who have specific vaccination requirements as per their destination, may visit a physician to talk about the risks and benefits of vaccination, taking into consideration the following:

- The minimum interval between the preceding dose and the additional dose is 28 days.
- There should be specific travel plans to a destination that requires people to be fully immunized with two doses of the same COVID-19 vaccine. In situations where an individual received a complete viral vector vaccine series but needs a complete mRNA vaccine series as per the travel requirements of their destination, third and fourth doses of an mRNA vaccine is permitted provided the discussion required to obtain consent

acknowledges that there is no effectiveness or safety data to support this use. Note: the absolute minimum interval between doses is 28 days.

- Individuals who have already received two doses of the same mRNA vaccine should not receive a third dose for travel purposes alone.
- Individuals without specific travel plans or, where their destination does not require them to receive an additional dose, should not receive a third dose for the purpose of travel. Individuals should therefore thoroughly review the requirements of their destination as these rules are regularly changing.

Third doses can be offered at any location that currently offers COVID-19 vaccine. Further details on where clients can access a booster/third dose as well as situations that require a prescription, are available online at: <https://www.gov.mb.ca/covid19/vaccine/eligibility-criteria.html>.

The Clinical Practice Guidelines will be updated to reflect these changes and posted at <https://www.gov.mb.ca/covid19/vaccine/healthcare-professionals.html>.

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

Sincerely,

*“Original signed by”*

Joss Reimer, MD FRCPC MPH  
**Medical Lead, Vaccine Implementation Task Force**