

COR-2022-181445

**From:** Dr. Janice Fitzgerald, Chief Medical Officer of Health  
**To:** Regional Health Authorities, Pharmacists, Physicians and Other Primary Care Providers  
**Re:** COVID-19 Fall Booster Vaccine Program- UPDATE  
**Date:** October 7, 2022

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In follow-up to my memo dated September 14, 2022, entitled **COVID-19 Fall Booster Vaccine Program**, please be advised that Public Health is expanding eligibility for the bivalent COVID-19 vaccine formulation in Newfoundland and Labrador. Expanded eligibility includes all adults aged 18 and over and individuals aged 12-17 years with an underlying medical condition that places them at high risk of severe COVID-19 disease. Bivalent vaccination clinics for those aged 18 years and over will begin on **October 7, 2022**.

On September 1, 2022, Health Canada authorized use of the Moderna Spikevax bivalent COVID-19 vaccine as a booster dose of 50mcg (0.5mL) in adults 18 years of age and older. The Moderna Spikevax bivalent COVID-19 vaccine is the first bivalent Omicron BA.1-containing mRNA COVID-19 vaccine authorized for use in Canada. The National Advisory Committee on Immunization (NACI) has made an off-label recommendation that individuals aged 12 to 17 years who are at high risk for severe COVID-19 disease may avail of the bivalent vaccine.

By the first week of October, Newfoundland and Labrador will have received approximately 140,000 doses of the Moderna Spikevax bivalent COVID-19 vaccine. We expect to receive more supply over the coming months, however we anticipate that our current supply is sufficient to meet current demand for the bivalent vaccine.

Pharmacists and physicians will be able to offer boosters of the ancestral vaccine as well as bivalent vaccine. At this stage, we continue to ask pharmacists and physicians to order vaccine based on booked appointments and to not stockpile vaccine. This ensures equitable distribution and access to the bivalent vaccine between pharmacists and Public Health. This will be a short-term measure while we monitor supply.

As per previous correspondence, individuals will be encouraged to receive their booster dose 20 weeks from their last vaccine dose or three months from a COVID-19 infection. Epidemiology and viral factors (e.g., a new circulating variant of concern) may necessitate a change in the dose interval in the future; in this regard, we will provide updates as warranted.

Documentation of all vaccine administration is required. Work is ongoing to allow electronic documentation of bivalent vaccine administration in the Electronic Medical Record. In the interim, if physicians choose to offer and administer bivalent vaccine before electronic documentation is available, paper documentation will be required. Any paper documentation will be entered by the Newfoundland and Labrador Centre for Health Information (NLCHI) and is only viewable through HEALTH-e NL. Physicians can send paper documentation via courier to:

Newfoundland and Labrador Centre for Health Information  
70 O'Leary Avenue  
St. John's, NL A1B 2C7

Communication will be provided at a later date to advise when physicians can commence electronic documentation of bivalent vaccine administration.

NACI continues to recommend a primary series with an authorized mRNA vaccine for all individuals aged six months and older. In addition, please also note that fall booster vaccines can be given at the same time as other immunizations. This will include the seasonal flu vaccine, once the campaign begins in mid-October. Please visit the [COVID-19 website](#) for more information on provincial COVID-19 vaccine recommendations.