

July 20, 2022

TO: Saskatchewan Health Authority
Saskatchewan Medical Association
Saskatchewan College of Paramedics
College of Registered Nurses of Saskatchewan
Northern Intertribal Health Authority
Indigenous Services Canada- Saskatchewan Region
Saskatchewan College of Pharmacy Professionals
Saskatchewan College of Respiratory Therapists
College of Physicians and Surgeons of Saskatchewan
Registered Psychiatric Nurses Association of Saskatchewan
Drug Plan and Extended Benefits Branch

Dear Colleagues:

Re: Moderna's Spikevax COVID-19 Vaccine Authorized for Children 6 months to 5 years old

Health Canada has authorized Moderna's Spikevax COVID-19 vaccine for children **six months to five years** of age on July 14, 2022. **The vaccine is a different concentration with a royal blue cap and is only to be used for children 6 months to 5 years at this time.** The National Advisory Committee on Immunization has published *Recommendations on the use of Moderna Spikevax COVID-19 vaccine in children 6 months to 5 years of age (2022-07-14)* at <https://www.canada.ca/content/dam/phac-aspc/documents/services/immunization/national-advisory-committee-on-immunization-naci/recommendations-use-moderna-spikevax-covid-19-vaccine-children-6-months-5-years.pdf>.

Effective **immediately**, offer a complete primary series consisting of 2 doses of 0.25 ml (25 mcg) of Moderna Spikevax COVID-19 vaccine (blue cap) with an **interval of at least 8 weeks** to children 6 months to 5 years of age in Saskatchewan.

- All children with **moderate to severe immunocompromising conditions (Appendix A)** receive a 3-dose primary series with an **interval of four to eight weeks** between doses.

A parent/legal guardian must be present to provide verbal informed consent. If the parent chooses an adult designate (e.g. grandparent, aunt) to accompany the child for a vaccine, a consent form signed by the parent/guardian must be presented.

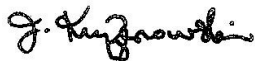
Note:

- An interval of at least 8 weeks between doses is recommended per NACI guidelines. There is emerging evidence that longer intervals between the first and second doses of COVID-19 vaccines result in more robust and durable immune response. This guidance may be updated to allow for a minimum interval of 28 days when vaccine supply permits.



- A 14-day interval between administration of this vaccine and other vaccines is preferred per NACI guidelines. However, similar to other COVID-19 vaccines in Saskatchewan, co-administration of this vaccine and other vaccines on an individual basis is allowed to avoid missed opportunities.
- For those children previously infected with COVID-19, NACI recommends an 8-week interval after symptom onset or a positive test if asymptomatic. For children who are moderately to severely immunocompromised this interval may be shortened to 4 weeks. Once vaccine supply is adequate, children who have had COVID-19 infection may be offered immunization once their symptoms have improved.
- For children 5 years of age, the age group in which both the Moderna Spikevax (25 mcg) and the Pfizer-BioNTech Comirnaty (10 mcg) COVID-19 vaccine primary series are authorized, the use of PfizerBioNTech Comirnaty (10 mcg) is preferred to Moderna Spikevax (25 mcg). Moderna Spikevax (25 mcg) may be offered to children 5 years of age as an alternative to Pfizer-BioNTech Comirnaty (10 mcg) on request.
- Children who have received Moderna Spikevax (25 mcg) for a previous dose and turn 6 years old prior to completing their primary series are recommended to receive Moderna Spikevax (50 mcg) to complete their primary series. If the primary series was completed with Moderna Spikevax (25 mcg) or with Pfizer-BioNTech Comirnaty (10 mcg), the dose should be considered valid and the series complete.
- If readily available (i.e., easily available at the time of vaccination without delay or vaccine wastage), the same mRNA COVID-19 vaccine product should be offered for the subsequent dose in a vaccine series started with a specific mRNA COVID-19 vaccine.
- However, in following the established guidance on interchangeability of mRNA COVID19 vaccines, when the same mRNA vaccine product is not readily available, is unknown, or is no longer authorized for the age group (e.g., once a child has turned 6 years of age), another mRNA COVID-19 vaccine product recommended in that age group can be considered interchangeable.
- If a child received one or two doses of Pfizer–BioNTech Comirnaty in the United States, they should continue with Moderna Spikevax (Blue Cap) for a total of 3 doses, with an 8 week interval between each dose.

Sincerely,



Dr. Julie Kryzanowski
Deputy Chief Medical Health Officer

Appendix A

Moderately to severely immunocompromised includes individuals with the following conditions:

- Immunocompromised due to solid tumour or hematologic malignancies or treatments for these conditions
- Solid-organ transplant and taking immunosuppressive therapy
- Hematopoietic stem cell transplant (within 2 years of transplantation or taking immunosuppression therapy)
- Immunocompromised due to chimeric antigen receptor (CAR) T cell therapy targeting lymphocytes
- Moderate to severe primary immunodeficiency with associated humoral and/or cell-mediated immunodeficiency or immune dysregulation
- HIV with AIDS-defining illness or TB diagnosis in last 12 months before starting vaccine series, or severe immune compromise with CD4<200 cells/uL or CD4%<15%, or without HIV viral suppression
- Recent treatment with the following categories of immunosuppressive therapies: anti-B cell therapies (monoclonal antibodies targeting CD19, CD20 and CD22), high-dose systemic corticosteroids, alkylating agents, antimetabolites, or tumor-necrosis factor (TNF) inhibitors and other biologic agents that are significantly immunosuppressive
- Chronic kidney disease (stage 5) or on dialysis