

July 19, 2023

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

Northern Intertribal Health Authority
Saskatchewan Medical Association
Saskatchewan College of Paramedics
College of Registered Nurses of Saskatchewan

Re: COVID-19 Program Update – mRNA Bivalent COVID-19 Vaccines for Primary Immunization Series for All Ages as of July 24, 2023

Dear Colleagues:

A. Monovalent mRNA vaccines no longer available for primary series for all ages as of July 24, 2023.

The National Advisory Committee on Immunization (NACI) published *Interim guidance on the use of bivalent Omicron-containing COVID-19 vaccines for primary series* on June 9, 2023, (<https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/publications/vaccines-immunization/national-advisory-committee-immunization-interim-guidance-use-bivalent-omicron-containing-covid-19-vaccines-primary-series.html>). NACI recommends that bivalent mRNA vaccines be administered for primary COVID-19 immunization series in those 6 months and older.

Health Canada authorized Pfizer's Comirnaty® BA.4/5 bivalent vaccine as a primary series on July 6, 2023. Health Canada has not yet authorized Moderna Spikevax BA.4/5 bivalent vaccine for use as a primary series; however Moderna's submission for this indication in those 6 months and older is under review by Health Canada and is to be administered off-label in the interim.

B. Effective July 24, 2023:

- Monovalent original strain mRNA vaccines (Moderna's Spikevax™ and Pfizer's Comirnaty®) will no longer be administered to start or complete a primary series in those six months and older.
 - **Please dispose of all monovalent mRNA vaccines by July 23, 2023.**
- Age-appropriate bivalent Omicron-containing vaccines should be administered to start or complete a COVID-19 vaccine primary series in those 6 months and older.
- A new reference document for bivalent primary series will be available in the [Saskatchewan Immunization Manual Chapter 10](#). The *Recommended bivalent Omicron-containing mRNA vaccines, dosages and schedules for primary series* page includes detailed schedules and footnotes based on the client's age and immune competence status (see **Table 1** below) and will be posted very soon.

(Continued on next page)

Table 1: Recommended bivalent Omicron-containing mRNA vaccines, dosages and schedules for primary series

Age at presentation	Vaccine options and dosage ^C	Schedule for individuals WHO ARE NOT moderately to severely immunocompromised A, B	Schedule for individuals WHO ARE moderately to severely immunocompromised A, B
6 months to 4 years old	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Moderna Spikevax BA.4/5 bivalent 0.25 mL (25 mcg)) 	2 doses 8 weeks apart	3 doses 4-8 weeks apart
5 to 11 years old	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pfizer-BioNTech Comirnaty BA.4/5 bivalent 0.2 mL (10 mcg) Orange cap & vial label border OR Moderna Spikevax BA.4/5 bivalent 0.25 mL (25 mcg) 	2 doses 8 weeks apart (Min. 4 weeks apart if requested or if operational issue)	3 doses 4-8 weeks apart
12 years and older	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pfizer-BioNTech Comirnaty BA.4/5 bivalent 0.3 mL (30 mcg) Grey cap & label OR Moderna Spikevax BA.4/5 bivalent 0.5 mL (50 mcg) 	2 doses 8 weeks apart (Min. 4 weeks apart if requested or if operational issues)	3 doses 4- 8 weeks apart

^A An 8-week interval is recommended because a **longer interval** between vaccine doses results in a stronger immune response and higher vaccine effectiveness.

^B Incomplete monovalent primary series are to be completed with age-appropriate bivalent vaccine doses. Refer to the Ministry of Health’s COVID – 19 Vaccine Contraindications and Precautions Background Document found in the [COVID-19 Immunization Manual](#).

^C For further details refer to the Ministry of Health’s COVID – 19 Vaccine Contraindications and Precautions Background Document found in the [COVID-19 Immunization Manual](#).

Sincerely,



Dr. Saqib Shahab
 Chief Medical Health Officer

cc: Medical Health Officers of Saskatchewan