

October 3, 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 – Moderna Spikevax® and Pfizer Comirnaty® Omicron XBB.1.5 Vaccines for Fall Immunization Programs

Dear Colleagues:

On September 12, 2023, Health Canada authorized Moderna’s Spikevax® XBB.1.5 vaccine and on September 28, 2023 they authorized Pfizer’s Comirnaty® Omicron XBB.1.5 vaccines for individuals 6 months of age and older. The National Advisory Committee on Immunization (NACI) published an *Addendum to the guidance on the use of COVID-19 vaccines in the fall of 2023*

(<https://www.canada.ca/content/dam/phac-aspc/documents/services/publications/vaccines-immunization/national-advisory-committee-immunization-addendum-guidance-use-covid-19-vaccines-fall-2023/statement.pdf>)

A. Provincial Fall 2023 Immunization Program

- Moderna’s XBB.1.5 vaccine has arrived in the province.
- Pfizer’s Comirnaty® 12+ vaccine is expected to arrive the week of October 9, 2023. The 5 – 11 year and 6 months to 4 year old formulations are expected to arrive mid to late October.
- As with the influenza campaign, the formal start date for the Moderna and Pfizer XBB.1.5 vaccines is October 10, 2023, however all XBB.1.5 vaccines may be offered to those six months of age and older as soon as vaccine supply is received and organizations are ready to begin offering it.
- **As XBB.1.5 vaccine supply has arrived, immediately discontinue the use of and discard all Pfizer and Moderna bivalent BA.4/5 vaccines and submit a wastage report.**
- **All immunocompetent individuals age 5 years and older** are eligible for one dose six months (minimum of three months) from their previous COVID-19 dose, regardless of the number of previous doses received.
- **For individuals age 6 months to 4 years of age**, the recommended number of doses and intervals depends their vaccination history.
- **NOTE:** Canada will be receiving the following Pfizer Comirnaty® Omicron XBB.1.5 vaccine formulations and the 5 years to 11 years has a change noted in bold below:
 - For 12 Years of Age and Older: **Gray cap/label border** - **DO NOT DILUTE** (each multiple dose vial contains 6 doses of 0.3 mL)
 - For Age 5 Years to 11 Years: **Blue cap/label border** – **DO NOT DILUTE** (each multidose vial contains 6 doses of 0.3 mL)

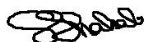


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- For Age 6 Months to 4 Years: **Maroon cap/label border** – **MUST DILUTE PRIOR TO USE** (after dilution each multiple dose vial contains 10 doses of 0.2 mL)
 - See **Appendix A** for schedule summary tables for immunocompetent and immunocompromised individuals (all ages) for each XBB.1.5 vaccine.
 - For the purposes of vaccinating those living in **personal care homes, long term care and other senior congregate living facilities (i.e. assisted living facilities)**, the vaccine can be administered less than three months (any interval permissible) after the last dose or infection.
 - For all others who had previous SARS-CoV-2 infection, an interval of six months (minimum of three months) is required between infection and any XBB.1.5 dose regardless of their age.
- B. Focus on High Risk Populations**
- While this vaccine is available to everyone 6 months of age and older, the following populations are highly recommended to receive this vaccine this fall:
 - All individuals 50 years of age and older;
 - All residents of long-term care and other congregate living settings, including personal care homes, and shelters;
 - All Individuals 6 months and older with [underlying medical conditions](#) that place them at higher risk of severe COVID-19;
 - Pregnant individuals;
 - Indigenous peoples and those living in northern and remote communities;
 - Health care workers, first responders, caregivers, other essential service workers and household members of persons at higher risk.
- C. Additional information**
- The Saskatchewan Immunization Manual [Chapter 10](#) contains Moderna Spikevax® and Pfizer Comirnaty® Omicron XBB.1.5 vaccine information, including schedules and a revised Questions and Answers section and will be posted.
- A fully revised [COVID-19 Contraindications and Precautions Background](#) document will be posted on the COVID-19 Immunization Manual website.
- The Moderna XBB.1.5 fact sheet, after care sheet and screening questions are posted and the Pfizer Omicron XBB.1.5 fact sheet, after care sheet and screening questions will be posted as soon as possible at [COVID-19 Vaccine Details](#).

Novavax Nuvaxovid™ original monovalent can continue to be administered to those 12 years of age and older who have a contraindication or refuse to receive an mRNA XBB.1.5 COVID-19 vaccine.

Sincerely,



Dr. Saqib Shahab
Chief Medical Health Officer

cc: Medical Health Officers of Saskatchewan

Appendix A:

XBB.1.5 COVID-19 Vaccination Schedules

IMPORTANT NOTE: the following Pfizer Comirnaty® XBB.1.5 vaccines are available:	
• 12+ Years of Age: Gray Cap/Label Border - DO NOT DILUTE , multidose vial containing 6 doses of 0.3 mL.	
• Ages 5 Years to 11 Years: Blue Cap/Label Border – DO NOT DILUTE , multidose vial containing 6 doses of 0.3 mL.	
• Ages 6 Months to 4 Years: Maroon Cap/Label Border – MUST DILUTE PRIOR TO USE , multiple dose vial containing 10 doses of 0.2 mL after dilution.	

Table 1: Schedules for individuals **5 years and older who are NOT immunocompromised**

Age	Vaccination History any formulation	XBB.1.5 Dosage	Number of XBB.1.5 doses required	Interval between last dose and XBB.1.5 dose ¹
12+ years	0 or more doses	Moderna = 0.5 ml (50 mcg)	1	6 months (min. 3 months)
		Pfizer 12+ = 0.3 ml (30 mcg) (Grey cap/label; DO NOT DILUTE)		
5 to 11 years	0 or more doses	Moderna = 0.25 ml (25 mcg)	1	6 months (min. 3 months)
		Pfizer 5-11 = 0.3 ml (10 mcg) (blue cap/label; DO NOT DILUTE)		

¹ For those who had previous SARS-CoV-2 infection, an interval of 6 months (min. 3 months) is required.

Table 2: Schedules for individuals **12 years and older WHO ARE moderately to severely immunocompromised**

- For a list of conditions, refer to the COVID-19 vaccine chapter in the Canadian Immunization Guide: [canada.ca/CIG - COVID19 Immunocompromised](https://canada.ca/CIG- COVID19 Immunocompromised)

Vaccination History any formulation	XBB.1.5 Dosage	Number of XBB.1.5 doses required	Interval between last dose and first XBB.1.5 dose ¹	Interval between XBB.1.5 doses ¹
0 doses	Moderna = 0.5 ml (50 mcg)	3	N/A	4-8 weeks
	Pfizer 12+ = 0.3 ml (30 mcg) (Grey cap/label; DO NOT DILUTE)			
1 dose	Moderna = 0.5 ml (50 mcg)	2	4-8 weeks	4-8 weeks
	Pfizer 12+ = 0.3 ml (30 mcg) (Grey cap/label; DO NOT DILUTE)			
2 doses	Moderna = 0.5 ml (50 mcg)	1	4-8 weeks	N/A
	Pfizer 12+ = 0.3 ml (30 mcg) (Grey cap/label; DO NOT DILUTE)			
3 or more doses	Moderna = 0.5 ml (50 mcg)	1	6 months (min. 3 months)	N/A
	Pfizer 12+ = 0.3 ml (30 mcg) (Grey cap/label; DO NOT DILUTE)			

¹ For those who had previous SARS-CoV-2 infection, an interval of 6 months (min. 3 months) is required.

Table 3: Schedule for individuals 5 to 11 years WHO ARE moderately to severely immunocompromised

➤ For a list of conditions, refer to the COVID-19 vaccine chapter in the Canadian Immunization Guide:
[canada.ca/CIG - COVID19 Immunocompromised](https://canada.ca/CIG- COVID19 Immunocompromised)

Vaccination History any formulation	XBB.1.5 Dosage	Number of XBB.1.5 doses required ^{1,2}	Interval between last dose and first XBB.1.5 dose ³	Interval between XBB.1.5 doses ¹
0 doses	Moderna = 0.25 ml (25 mcg)	3	N/A	4-8 weeks
	Pfizer 5-11 = 0.3 ml (10 mcg) (blue cap/label; DO NOT DILUTE)			
1 dose	Moderna = 0.25 ml (25 mcg)	2	4-8 weeks	4-8 weeks
	Pfizer 5-11 = 0.3 ml (10 mcg) (blue cap/label; DO NOT DILUTE)			
2 doses	Moderna = 0.25 ml (25 mcg)	1	4-8 weeks	N/A
	Pfizer 5-11 = 0.3 ml (10 mcg) (blue cap/label; DO NOT DILUTE)			
3 or more doses	Moderna = 0.25 ml (25 mcg)	1	6 months (min. 3 months)	N/A
	Pfizer 5-11 = 0.3 ml (10 mcg) (blue cap/label; DO NOT DILUTE)			

¹ Children who transition from 4 to 5 years old between Moderna XBB.1.5 doses should complete the series as per the six month to four years schedule using 0.25 ml (25mcg) dose.

² Children who transition from 4 to 5 years old between Pfizer 6mo-4yr XBB.1.5 doses should complete the 3 dose series as per the six month to four years schedule using the Pfizer 6mo-4yr 0.2 ml (3mcg) dose.

³ For those who had previous SARS-CoV-2 infection, an interval of 6 months (min. 3 months) is required.

Table 4: MODERNA SPIKEVAX™ XBB.1.5 schedules for children presenting at age 6 months to 4 years who are NOT immunocompromised

Vaccination History any formulation	Moderna XBB.1.5 6mo-4yr Dosage	Number of doses required	Interval between last dose and first XBB.1.5 dose ¹	Interval between XBB.1.5 doses ^{1,2}
0 doses	0.25 ml (25 mcg)	2 ³	N/A	4-8 weeks ²
1 dose Pfizer	0.25 ml (25 mcg)	2 ³	4-8 weeks	4-8 weeks ²
2 doses Pfizer	0.25 ml (25 mcg)	1	4-8 weeks	N/A
1 dose Pfizer and 1 dose Moderna				
1 dose Moderna				
3 doses Pfizer	0.25 ml (25 mcg)	1	6 months (min. 3 months)	N/A
2 doses Moderna				
2 doses Pfizer and 1 dose Moderna				
1 dose Pfizer and 2 doses Moderna				

¹ For those who had previous SARS-CoV-2 infection, an interval of 6 months (min. 3 months) is required.

² Children who transition from 4 to 5 years old between Moderna XBB.1.5 doses should complete the series as per the six month to four years schedule using 0.25 ml (25mcg) dose.

³ If second dose of XBB.1.5 vaccine is Pfizer, client must complete series based on **PFIZER COMIRNATY® XBB.1.5 age 6 months to 4 years** schedule (Table 5).

Table 5: PFIZER COMIRNATY® XBB.1.5 schedules for children presenting at age 6 months to 4 years who are NOT immunocompromised

Vaccination History any formulation	Pfizer 6mo-4yr XBB.1.5 Dosage (Maroon cap/label) DILUTE PRIOR TO USE	Number of doses required	Interval between last dose and first XBB.1.5 dose ¹	Interval between XBB.1.5 doses ^{1,2}
0 doses	0.2ml (3 mcg)	3 ³	N/A	4-8 weeks ²
1 dose Pfizer	0.2ml (3 mcg)	2	4-8 weeks	4-8 weeks ²
1 dose Moderna				
2 doses Pfizer	0.2ml (3 mcg)	1	4-8 weeks	N/A
1 dose Pfizer and 1 dose Moderna				
3 doses Pfizer				
2 doses Moderna	0.2ml (3 mcg)	1	6 months (min. 3 months)	N/A
2 doses Pfizer and 1 dose Moderna				
1 dose Pfizer and 2 doses Moderna				
1 dose Pfizer and 2 doses Moderna				

¹ For those who had previous SARS-CoV-2 infection, an interval of 6 months (min. 3 months) is required.

² Children who transition from 4 to 5 years old between Pfizer 6mo-4yr XBB.1.5 doses should complete the 3 dose series as per the six month to four years schedule using the Pfizer 6mo-4yr 0.2 ml (3mcg) dose.

³ If second dose of XBB.1.5 vaccine is Moderna, client must still complete series based on Pfizer XBB.1.5 age 6 months to 4 years schedule.

Table 6: MODERNA SPIKEVAX™ XBB.1.5 schedules for children presenting at age 6 months to 4 years WHO ARE moderately to severely immunocompromised

➤ For a list of conditions, refer to the COVID-19 vaccine chapter in the Canadian Immunization Guide:

[canada.ca/CIG - COVID19 Immunocompromised](https://canada.ca/CIG- COVID19 Immunocompromised)

Vaccination History any formulation	Moderna XBB.1.5 6mo-4yr Dosage	Number of doses required	Interval between last dose and first XBB.1.5 dose ¹	Interval between XBB.1.5 doses ^{1,2}
0 doses	0.25 ml (25 mcg)	3	N/A	4-8 weeks
1 dose Pfizer	0.25 ml (25 mcg)	2	4-8 weeks	4-8 weeks
1 dose Moderna				
2 doses Moderna	0.25 ml (25 mcg)	1	4-8 weeks	N/A
2 doses Pfizer				
1 dose Pfizer and 1 dose Moderna				
3 doses Pfizer				
2 doses Pfizer and 1 dose Moderna				
1 dose Pfizer and 2 doses Moderna				
4 doses Pfizer	0.25 ml (25 mcg)	1	6 months (min. 3 months)	N/A
3 doses Moderna				
3 doses Pfizer and 1 dose Moderna				
2 doses of Pfizer and 2 doses of Moderna				
1 dose of Pfizer and 3 doses of Moderna				

¹ For those who had previous SARS-CoV-2 infection, an interval of 6 months (min. 3 months) is required.

² Children who transition from 4 to 5 years old between Moderna XBB.1.5 doses should complete the series as per the six month to four years schedule using 0.25 ml (25mcg) dose.

Table 7: PFIZER COMIRNATY® XBB.1.5 schedules for children presenting at age 6 months to 4 years WHO ARE moderately to severely immunocompromised

➤ For a list of conditions, refer to the COVID-19 vaccine chapter in the Canadian Immunization Guide:

canada.ca/CIG - COVID19 Immunocompromised

Vaccination History any formulation	Pfizer 6mo-4yr XBB.1.5 Dosage (Maroon cap /label) DILUTE PRIOR TO USE	Number of doses	Interval between last dose and first XBB.1.5 dose ¹	Interval between XBB.1.5 doses ^{1,2}
0 doses	0.2 ml (3 mcg)	3	N/A	4-8 weeks
1 dose Pfizer	0.2 ml (3 mcg)	2	4-8 weeks	4-8 weeks
1 dose Moderna				
2 doses Moderna	0.2 ml (3 mcg)	1	4-8 weeks	N/A
2 doses Pfizer				
1 dose Pfizer and 1 dose Moderna				
3 doses Pfizer				
2 doses Pfizer and 1 dose Moderna				
1 dose Pfizer and 2 doses Moderna				
4 doses Pfizer	0.2 ml (3mcg)	1	6 months (min. 3 months)	N/A
3 doses Moderna				
3 doses Pfizer and 1 dose Moderna				
2 doses of Pfizer and 2 doses of Moderna				
1 dose of Pfizer and 3 doses of Moderna				

¹ For those who had previous SARS-CoV-2 infection, an interval of 6 months (min. 3 months) is required.

² Children who transition from 4 to 5 years old between Pfizer 6mo-4yr XBB.1.5 doses should complete the 3 dose series as per the 6 month to 4 years schedule using the Pfizer 6mo-4yr 0.2 ml (3mcg) dose.