

September 8, 2022

TO: Saskatchewan Health Authority
Indigenous Services Canada- Saskatchewan Region
Northern Intertribal Health Authority
Saskatchewan Medical Association
College of Registered Nurses of Saskatchewan
Saskatchewan College of Pharmacy Professionals
Saskatchewan College of Paramedics
Saskatchewan College of Respiratory Therapists
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

Dear Colleagues:

Re: Provision of Moderna Spikevax[®] Bivalent Original/Omicron Vaccine

On September 1, 2022, Health Canada authorized Moderna's Spikevax[®] Bivalent Original/Omicron vaccine **as a booster dose** (50 mcg) in individuals 18 years of age and older regardless of the number of previous doses received.

Spikevax[®] Bivalent Original/Omicron is not authorized to be administered as a primary immunization series. Only original monovalent COVID-19 vaccines can be given as a primary series.

A. Effective September 12, 2022:

One 0.5 ml Moderna Spikevax[®] Bivalent booster dose is to be provided to the following groups four months or longer after receipt of their last dose.

- residents 18 years of age and older living in personal care homes, long-term care, and other senior congregate living facilities (i.e.: assisted living facilities).

B. Effective September 19, 2022:

One 0.5 ml Moderna Spikevax[®] Bivalent booster dose is to be provided to the following groups four months or longer after receipt of their last dose.

- those 70 years and older living in the community; and
- those 50 years and older in First Nations and Metis communities and the Northern Service Administration District.

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C. Further expansion of eligibility

The Government of Saskatchewan will offer this vaccine in a phased approach and will expand eligibility to the following populations as vaccine supply increases and system capacity allows:

- those 18 years of age and older with immunocompromising conditions; and
- those 50 years of age and older living in the community.

The above populations will be followed by everyone 18 years of age and older to align with the annual influenza immunization campaign.

Detailed information regarding eligibility and intervals for bivalent booster doses is available at <https://www.saskatchewan.ca/government/health-care-administration-and-provider-resources/treatment-procedures-and-guidelines/emerging-public-health-issues/2019-novel-coronavirus/covid-19-vaccine/vaccine-delivery-phases#booster-doses>.

Clinical trials have shown that Moderna Spikevax® Bivalent vaccine triggers a strong immune response against both Omicron (BA.1) and the original strain, as well as a good immune response against BA.4 and BA.5 subvariants. It also has a similar safety profile to the original Spikevax® vaccine.

This vaccine **does not require dilution** and may be given concomitantly with other vaccines. However, a four week precautionary interval is recommended between COVID-19 vaccine and smallpox/monkeypox vaccine.

COVID-19 vaccine details are available at <https://www.saskatchewan.ca/government/health-care-administration-and-provider-resources/treatment-procedures-and-guidelines/emerging-public-health-issues/2019-novel-coronavirus/covid-19-vaccine/covid-19-vaccine-information/covid-19-vaccine-details> and in the COVID-19 Immunization Manual <https://www.ehealthsask.ca/services/Manuals/Pages/COVID-19.aspx>.

Refer to chapter 10 of the Saskatchewan Immunization Manual for all COVID-19 vaccine information <https://www.ehealthsask.ca/services/Manuals/Documents/sim-chapter10.pdf>.

Sincerely,



Dr. Saqib Shahab
Chief Medical Health Officer