

## Saskatchewan Immunization Manual Amendments March 27, 2023

**Instructions:** Please remove and discard the corresponding pages in each chapter section as applicable and insert the amended pages as noted below in each corresponding chapter section.

### **Chapter 10 Biological Products**

- COVID-19 Booster Dose Parameters and Recommendations
  - Off-license use noted for Modern BA.4/5 in ages 6-17 years.
  - **New** first and second bullets:
    - People 5 years of age and older are eligible to receive **one** bivalent booster dose **6** months (absolute minimum of 5 months if operationally required) from their previous dose (i.e., after a primary series or a previous monovalent booster dose (regardless of the number of booster doses previously received)) **or** COVID-19 infection (whichever interval is longer as applicable).
    - The following populations are recommended to receive a **second** COVID-19 bivalent vaccine booster dose **6** or more months (absolute minimum of 5 months if operationally required) from their last COVID-19 booster dose **or** COVID-19 infection (whichever interval is longer as applicable):
      - Adults 80 years of age and older
      - Adult residents 18 years of age and older in long-term care facilities, personal care homes, and congregate living settings providing care for seniors (i.e. assisted living settings).
      - Adults 18 years of age and older who are moderately to severely immunocompromised with medical conditions described at <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/publications/healthy-living/canadian-immunization-guide-part-4-active-vaccines/page-26-covid-19-vaccine.html#a6.4.considerations>
      - Adults 65-79 years of age, **particularly** if they do not have a known prior history of COVID-19 infection (verbal confirmation is acceptable from the client or their caregiver).
- COVID-19 Vaccine Q &A for Immunizers
  - **New! #3**
    - A. Are there any exceptions regarding the 6-month interval for booster doses?**
    - B. Response:** The 6-month interval is recommended after SARS-CoV-2 infection and the administration of a booster dose, as more time between infection and vaccination may result in a better immune response. The absolute minimum interval is 5 months, only to be applied if operationally required.
  - **#9 responses:**
    - A.** If they have received 1 dose of a non-HC approved vaccine and now are in Canada, provide 1 monovalent dose 4 weeks after their first dose (preferably mRNA vaccine), and 1 bivalent booster dose (as age eligible; refer to COVID-19 Booster Dose Parameters and Recommendations) 6 months later to be considered up to date for current recommendations.
    - B.** Select populations are recommended to receive a second bivalent booster dose. Refer to COVID-19 Booster Dose Parameters and Recommendations.
  - **#10 responses:**
    - A.** If they have received 2 non-HC approved doses and are now in Canada, provide 1 bivalent dose (as age eligible; refer to COVID-19 Booster Dose Parameters and Recommendations) 6 months after their second dose, as their additional dose. They will be considered up to date based on current recommendations.

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- B. If they have received 3 non-HC approved doses and are now in Canada, provide 1 bivalent dose (if age eligible; refer to COVID-19 Booster Dose Parameters and Recommendations) 6 months after their third dose as their booster.
- Added to #12: While Pfizer-BioNTech original is generally preferred for the primary series in those 5 to 29 years of age due to the lower risk of myocarditis/pericarditis, given the potential benefit in the immune response, for some moderately to severely immunocompromised individuals 5 to 29 years of age, administration of Moderna Spikevax original as a primary series may be considered (based on clinical judgement).