

September 22, 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® XBB.1.5 Vaccine for Fall Immunization Programs

Dear Colleagues:

On September 12, 2023, Health Canada authorized Moderna's Spikevax® XBB.1.5 vaccine for individuals 6 months of age and older and 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>)

NACI recommends that those previously vaccinated against COVID-19, receive one dose of the XBB.1.5-containing formulation of COVID-19 vaccine for individuals in the authorized age group if it has been at least 6 months from the previous COVID-19 vaccine dose or infection (whichever is later).

A. Provincial Fall 2023 Immunization Program

- As with the influenza vaccine, the Moderna XBB.1.5 vaccine's formal start date is October 10, 2023, however Moderna XBB.1.5 vaccine may be offered to those six months of age and older as soon as vaccine supply is received.
 - **Once XBB.1.5 vaccine supply is received, 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.
 - See **Appendix A** for schedule summary tables for immunocompetent and immunocompromised individuals.
 - 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 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.
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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;
 - 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 and other essential service workers.

C. Additional information

The Saskatchewan Immunization Manual [Chapter 10](#) will be posted as soon as possible, with Moderna XBB.1.5 vaccine information, including schedules and a revised Questions and Answers section.

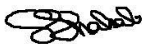
A fully revised [COVID-19 Contraindications and Precautions Background](#) document will be posted as soon as possible on the COVID-19 Immunization Manual website.

The Moderna XBB.1.5 fact sheet, after care sheet and screening questions will be posted as soon as possible.

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 COVID-19 vaccine.

This letter will be updated once the Pfizer Comirnaty XBB.1.5 vaccine is authorized by Health Canada.

Sincerely,



Dr. Saqib Shahab
Chief Medical Health Officer

cc: Medical Health Officers of Saskatchewan

Appendix A:

CMHO letter on Moderna Spikevax™ XBB.1.5

XBB.1.5 COVID-19 Vaccination Schedules

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

Age	Vaccination History - original monovalent and/or bivalent vaccines	Moderna XBB.1.5 Dosage	Number of Moderna XBB.1.5 doses required	Interval between last dose and XBB.1.5 dose ¹
12+ years	0 or more doses	0.5 ml (50 mcg)	1	6 months (min. 3 months)
5 to 11 years ²	0 or more doses	0.25 ml (25 mcg)	1	6 months (min. 3 months)

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 2: Schedule for individuals **5 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

Age	Vaccination History- original monovalent and/or bivalent vaccines	Moderna XBB.1.5 Dosage	Number of Moderna XBB.1.5 doses required	Interval between last dose and first XBB.1.5 dose ¹	Interval between XBB.1.5 doses ¹
12+ years	0 doses	0.5 ml (50 mcg)	3	N/A	4-8 weeks
5 to 11 years ²		0.25 ml (25 mcg)			
12+ years	1 dose	0.5 ml (50 mcg)	2	4-8 weeks	4-8 weeks
5 to 11 years ²		0.25 ml (25 mcg)			
12+ years	2 doses	0.5 ml (50 mcg)	1	4-8 weeks	N/A
5 to 11 years ²		0.25 ml (25 mcg)			
12+ years	3 or more doses	0.5 ml (50 mcg)	1	6 months (min. 3 months)	N/A
5 to 11 years ²		0.25 ml (25 mcg)			

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 3: Schedule for children presenting **6 months to 4 years** who are **NOT immunocompromised**

COVID-19 Vaccination History - original monovalent and/or bivalent vaccines	Moderna XBB.1.5 Dosage	Number of Moderna XBB.1.5 doses required	Interval between last dose and first XBB.1.5 dose¹	Interval between XBB.1.5 doses^{1,2}
0 doses	0.25 ml (25 mcg)	2	N/A	4-8 weeks ²
1 dose Pfizer	0.25 ml (25 mcg)	2	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.

Table 4: Schedule for children presenting at 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)

COVID-19 Vaccination History-- original monovalent and/or bivalent vaccines	Moderna XBB.1.5 Dosage	Number of Moderna XBB.1.5 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.