

August 24, 2022

COVID-19 Vaccine: Approval & Eligibility on a First Booster Dose for Children aged 5 to 11 years

Dear Health Care Provider:

Effective August 19, 2022, Health Canada authorized the use of the Pfizer/Comirnaty® COVID-19 booster vaccine in children aged 5 to ≤ 11 years. Recommendations from the National Advisory Committee on Immunization (NACI) on the use of a first booster dose in children aged 5-11 years are available at: www.canada.ca/content/dam/phac-aspc/documents/services/immunization/national-advisory-committee-on-immunization-naci/recommendations-use-first-booster-dose-pfizer-biontech-comirnaty-covid-19-vaccine-children-5-11-years.pdf.

In line with NACI's recommends, all children age 5-11 are eligible for a booster dose of Pfizer/Comirnaty® (10 mcg) COVID-19 vaccine ≥ 6 months after completion of a primary vaccine series. If it has been less than 6 months since completing the primary series, the child will need to wait until it has been at least 6 months to be eligible for a booster dose. If you recommend a child receive a booster sooner than 6 months based on that child's specific circumstances (e.g. to optimize immune response based on when a next dose of immunosuppressing medication is due), this will require a prescription if administered outside a physician's office. Vaccination is specifically recommended for children with an underlying medical condition that places them at high risk of severe illness due to COVID-19.

If an individual has had a recent COVID-19 infection, in addition to the eligibility criteria above, public health recommends (but does not require) the following intervals between infection and getting the vaccine:

- two months if the person has not completed a primary series
- three months if the person has completed a primary series.

Note: At the very least, people need to wait until they have fully recovered and completed their isolation period before getting their next eligible dose.

NACI also advises that children aged 5-11 years may receive non-COVID-19 vaccines before, on the same day, or after receiving COVID-19 vaccines.

The updated product monograph, including information about storage and stability guidelines, is available at: www.gov.mb.ca/covid19/vaccine/resources.html#productmonographs.

A new provincial factsheet will be available in the coming days at:
www.gov.mb.ca/covid19/vaccine/resources.html.

Please share this information with colleagues in your facility/clinic.

Sincerely,

Original Signed By:

Richard Baydack, PhD
Director,
Communicable Disease Control

Original Signed By:

Davinder Singh, MD, MSc, FRCPC
Medical Lead, Vaccines,
Communicable Disease Control