

To: Nova Scotia Health Care Practitioners and Immunizers

From: Dr. Ryan Sommers, Senior Medical Officer of Health and Senior Medical Director, Public Health, Nova Scotia Health

Date: July 15, 2022

Re: ***Addition of Moderna COVID-19 vaccine for use in individuals aged 6 months through 5 years and additional booster for pregnant individuals***

Moderna COVID-19 vaccines for use in individuals aged 6 months through 5 years

On July 14, 2022, [Health Canada authorized Moderna COVID-19 vaccine \(25 mcg\)](#) for active immunization against COVID-19 in children aged 6 months through 5 years. On the same day, the National Advisory Committee on Immunization (NACI) published [recommendations](#) for use of the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine (0.10mg/mL) in this age group.

In response, the following updates have been made to the Nova Scotia COVID-19 vaccine program:

1. Moderna COVID-19 vaccine (25 mcg) may be given as a **two-dose primary series** to children aged 6 months to 5 years at an interval of 8 weeks between first and second dose. Individuals in this age group who are moderately to severely immunocompromised should receive a three-dose primary series at an interval of 28 days between first and second dose and 56 days between second and third dose.
2. Children who are 5 years of age should continue to use Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine due to supply constraints. However, once this resolves, Moderna may be offered as an alternative.
3. Children in this age group who have been previously infected with COVID-19 may receive their first dose of COVID-19 vaccine 8 weeks (or between 4 to 8 weeks if immunocompromised) after symptom onset or positive test (if asymptomatic).
4. As a precaution, NACI recommends that COVID-19 vaccines for children younger than 5 years of age should not routinely be given concomitantly with other vaccines. It is prudent to wait for a period of at least 14 days before or after the administration of another vaccine before administering a COVID-19 vaccine for children younger than 5 years of age.

Appointment bookings for this population will open **in early August**.

Nova Scotia will receive a new concentration of Moderna COVID-19 vaccine (0.10mg/mL) to support the rollout in the 6 month to 5 year age group. This product has a royal blue cap, and a purple border and supply may be limited initially.

For more information, see [Health Canada's authorization](#) of Moderna COVID-19 vaccine (25 mcg) for use in individuals aged 6 months through 5 years, the NACI [Statement](#) and [Summary](#).

Additional booster for pregnant individuals who have not received a booster dose during their current pregnancy

Pregnant individuals are at increased risk of severe outcomes from COVID-19 and infection in pregnancy is associated with adverse neonatal outcomes such as preterm delivery and low birth weight. Despite this, COVID-19 vaccine coverage rates in pregnant individuals have been lower than the general population. Some individuals have received their first booster dose before their current pregnancy. A booster dose in pregnancy has been shown to increase antibody levels in both the pregnant person and in umbilical cord blood at birth. Additionally, infants of individuals vaccinated in pregnancy have been shown to have lower rates of hospitalization in the first 6 months of life.

As a result, Nova Scotia will be expanding booster eligibility in early August for any pregnant person who has not had a booster dose in their current pregnancy and who is expected to deliver before or in early fall.