

SUBJECT: COVID-19 Booster Doses – Bivalent Vaccine Eligibility
Date: September 12, 2022
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To: Health Care Providers, Pharmacies, Hospitals, Assessment Centres
From: Dr. Matthew Tenenbaum, Associate Medical Officer of Health

- The Moderna Spikevax Bivalent COVID-19 vaccine will be available beginning the week of September 12. Initial supply of this vaccine will be very limited.
- For the first two weeks, only specific high-risk groups will be eligible.
- Beginning the week of September 26th, eligibility will open up to all adults age 18+.
- Vaccine should be prioritized to those most at risk for severe outcomes from COVID-19; please consider who this would apply to within your patient population.
- The bivalent vaccine can be ordered directly from WDGPH.

Moderna Spikevax Bivalent (Original + Omicron BA.1) COVID-19 vaccine is being distributed **starting the week of September 12** in Ontario. For the first 2 weeks of distribution, there will be [limited supply available to the higher risk groups defined by the Ministry of Health:](#)

- Residents in Long Term Care/Retirement Home/Congregate Settings
- Older adults age 70+
- Pregnant individuals
- Moderately to Severely Immunocompromised individuals age 12+
- FNIM (First Nations, Inuit, Metis) individuals and their household members age 18+
- Healthcare workers (including first responders)

Starting on September 26 all individuals age 18+ will be eligible for the bivalent vaccines. The first bivalent vaccine available will be the Moderna Spikevax Bivalent vaccine (mRNA-1273.214), recently approved by Health Canada. The Omicron component of this vaccine targets BA.1 and based on clinical data the booster has a significantly higher neutralizing antibody response (compared to the original Moderna Spikevax vaccine) against all tested variants including Omicron BA.4/5¹. The dose is 50 mcg regardless of age or medical history.

Moderna Spikevax Bivalent Vaccine (mRNA-1273.214)	
Authorized for ages	18 years and older ²
Indicated for	COVID-19 booster doses only (not indicated for primary series)
Vial cap colour	Royal Blue
Label border colour	Green
Dose (mRNA concentration)	50 mcg (25 mcg Original + 25 mcg Omicron BA.1)
Injection volume	0.5 mL
Dilution required	No
Doses per vial	5 doses
Storage (pre-puncture)	Up to 30 days at 2-8°C Up to 24 hours at 8-25°C
Storage (post-puncture)	Up to 24 hours at 2-25°C

2. Moderately to severely immunocompromised individuals ages 12-17 are eligible to receive the Moderna Spikevax Bivalent vaccine though this would be off-label.

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Pfizer has submitted to Health Canada for approval of their Bivalent Booster vaccine. The Pfizer bivalent vaccine also contains the original strain plus Omicron BA.1 variant. The timing of when the Pfizer bivalent vaccine will be approved and released is not known at the time of this advisory but is anticipated the end of September or early October. We expect that this vaccine once approved will be for individuals ages 12 years and older.

All individuals listed above will be eligible for one bivalent booster dose this fall, regardless of how many booster doses have previously been received. The recommended interval is 6 months (168 days) following the most recent vaccine dose, with a minimum of 3 months (84 days). Individuals who have recently had COVID-19 should wait 3 to 6 months following their infection before receiving their booster.

These bivalent booster doses can be given at the same time as, or at any interval before or after, the flu vaccine or any another vaccine.

- WDGPH will only receive 12,200 doses of Moderna's bivalent vaccine for the first 2 weeks of this vaccine distribution which will be significantly increased starting the week of September 26.
- In the first 2 weeks vaccine should be prioritized to those most at risk for the worst outcomes from COVID disease which includes individuals 70+, pregnant women and FNIM (First Nations, Inuit, Metis) individuals and their household members age 18+.
- WDGPH is distributing bivalent vaccine directly to LTCH/RH to vaccinate their residents, staff and designated caregivers.

To order vaccine fax a completed [order form](#) and [temperature logs](#) to 519-823-4903. Orders will be filled up to Thursday at noon for delivery the following week. Pick-up through the week at a public health office can also be arranged. Use [this link](#) to order single-dose syringes for pick up at select clinic locations.

At this time there is no indication that bivalent vaccines for booster doses for those 6 months to 11 years of age will be arriving soon. Current recommendations for those 5 to 11 years of age for booster doses is to use the original (monovalent) vaccine.

References:

1. Center for Disease Control and Prevention. Booster Doses of Moderna COVID-19 Vaccines in Adults, Adolescents & Children, September 1, 2022. Available at: <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/acip/meetings/downloads/slides-2022-09-01/06-COVID-Miller-508.pdf>

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