

---

**SUBJECT:** 1. Co-administration of COVID-19 Vaccines with Other Vaccines  
2. Use of Pfizer BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine for Individuals Aged 18-24

**Date:** September 30, 2021

**Pages:** 3

**To:** Primary Care Physicians, Hospitals, LTC/RHs, Pharmacies

**From:** Dr. Matthew Tenenbaum, Associate Medical Officer of Health

---

**1. NACI recommends that COVID-19 vaccines may be given concomitantly with (i.e., same day), or at any time before or after, non-COVID-19 vaccines (including live, non-live, adjuvanted or unadjuvanted).**

On September 28, 2021, [National Advisory Committee on Immunization \(NACI\) updated its recommendations](#) on the co-administration of COVID-19 vaccines with other vaccines. Based on NACI's review of the effectiveness, immunogenicity and safety of COVID-19 vaccines combined with the extensive data on the concomitant administration of non-COVID-19 vaccines for routine immunizations, NACI concluded that a precautionary approach is no longer necessary.

**NACI recommends that COVID-19 vaccines may be given concomitantly with (i.e., same day), or at any time before or after, non-COVID-19 vaccines (including live, non-live, adjuvanted or unadjuvanted).<sup>1</sup>**

The co-administration of COVID-19 vaccines with other vaccines will facilitate influenza vaccine programs and other routine vaccine programs that were disrupted due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

### **Clinical Considerations**

It is currently unknown if the reactogenicity of COVID-19 vaccines is increased with concomitant administration of other vaccines. While no specific safety concerns have been identified, there is potential for increased reactogenicity particularly for those vaccines known to be more reactogenic, such as newer adjuvanted vaccines. Informed consent should include a discussion of the risks and benefits given the limited data available on administration of COVID-19 vaccines with other vaccines.

If more than one type of vaccine is administered at a single visit, they should be administered at different injection sites using separate injection equipment.

Refer to [the Canadian Immunization Guide, Part 1 – Timing of Vaccine Administration](#) for additional general information on simultaneous administration of other vaccines.<sup>2</sup>

## WDG Public Health Physician Advisory

### 1. Co-administration of COVID-19 Vaccines with Other Vaccines

### 2. Use of Pfizer BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine for Individuals Aged 18-24

September 30, 2021

Page 2 of 3

<b>2. Ontario recommends that Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine is preferentially administered to individuals who are 18-24 years old.</b>
---

Out of an abundance of caution, Ontario is issuing a recommendation to preferentially administer Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine to individuals aged 24 years or younger effective immediately.

This recommendation was based on the advice of Ontario's Children COVID-19 Vaccine Table, Ontario Vaccine Clinical Advisory Group, and Public Health Ontario and is due to an [observed increase in Ontario of the very rare heart condition called pericarditis/myocarditis](#)<sup>3</sup> following vaccination with Moderna compared to Pfizer in the 18 to 24 year old age group, particularly among males. The majority of reported cases have been mild with individuals recovering quickly, normally with anti-inflammatory medication.<sup>4</sup> Symptoms have typically been reported to start within one week after vaccination, more commonly after the second dose.

This decision is also based on the increased and reliable supply of the Pfizer vaccine and the fact that individuals who received Moderna for their first dose can safely take the Pfizer vaccine for their second dose.

If individuals aged 18 to 24 years old wish to receive Moderna, they can continue to do so with informed consent. While Health Canada has authorized Moderna for ages 12 years and up, Ontario's Ministry of Health recommends that only the Pfizer vaccine be offered to youth ages 12-17 (including those turning 12 in 2021).

#### References:

1. Public Health Agency of Canada. National Advisory Committee on Immunization: Recommendations on the use of COVID-19 vaccines, September 28, 2021. Available at: <https://www.canada.ca/content/dam/phac-aspc/documents/services/immunization/national-advisory-committee-on-immunization-naci/recommendations-use-covid-19-vaccines/recommendations-use-covid-19-vaccines-en.pdf>
2. Public Health Agency of Canada. Canadian Immunization Guide, March 26, 2021. Available at: <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/canadian-immunization-guide.html>.
3. Public Health Ontario. Myocarditis and Pericarditis Following Vaccination with COVID-19 mRNA Vaccines in Ontario: December 13, 2020 to August 7, 2021, August 25, 2021. Available at: [https://www.publichealthontario.ca/-/media/documents/ncov/epi/covid-19-myocarditis-pericarditis-vaccines-epi.pdf?sc\\_lang=en](https://www.publichealthontario.ca/-/media/documents/ncov/epi/covid-19-myocarditis-pericarditis-vaccines-epi.pdf?sc_lang=en).
4. Public Health Ontario. Myocarditis and Pericarditis Following COVID-19 mRNA Vaccines, July 13, 2021. Available at: <https://www.publichealthontario.ca/-/media/documents/ncov/vaccines/2021/06/covid-19-mrna-vaccines-myocarditis-pericarditis.pdf?la=en>.

**WDG Public Health Physician Advisory**

**1. Co-administration of COVID-19 Vaccines with Other Vaccines**

**2. Use of Pfizer BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine for Individuals Aged 18-24**

**September 30, 2021**

Page 3 of 3

**For more information, please contact:**

Name/Title: Marlene Jantzi, Program Manager, Infectious Disease

Email: [Marlene.Jantzi@wdgpublichealth.ca](mailto:Marlene.Jantzi@wdgpublichealth.ca)

Website: [www.wdgpublichealth.ca](http://www.wdgpublichealth.ca)