

November 23, 2021

COVID-19 Vaccine: approval/guidance for children aged five to ≤ 11 years

On November 19, 2021, Health Canada authorized the Pfizer/Comirnaty™ pediatric COVID-19 vaccine for use in children aged 5 to ≤ 11 years. It is expected that there will be sufficient supply available to complete first doses in this pediatric population. The pediatric vaccine varies from the adolescent/adult formulation (as detailed in the table below). **Careful consideration must be given to ensuring clients aged five to ≤ 11 years are given the authorized pediatric formulation.**

Manitoba public health officials recommend that a complete series of Pfizer/Comirnaty™ pediatric vaccine be offered to children aged five to ≤ 11 years without contraindications to the vaccine, with a dosing interval of at least eight weeks between the first and second dose. In some situations, doses may be given closer together after discussing the risks and benefits with parents/guardians or as recommended by the relevant public health authority based on current epidemiologic trends; more guidance will be available in the Clinical Practice Guidelines in the coming weeks.

- Children are to receive the COVID-19 vaccine they are eligible for at the time of immunization, and must be at minimum five years of age. This means a child may receive the pediatric formulation (10 mcg) for dose one at age 11, and the adolescent/adult formulation (30 mcg) for dose two at age 12.
- For children with a previous history of MIS-C, vaccination should be postponed until clinical recovery has been achieved or until it has been ≥ 90 days since diagnosis, whichever is longer.
- As a precautionary measure, NACI recommends waiting 14 days before or after the administration of another vaccine before administering a COVID-19 vaccine to prevent an erroneous attribution of an adverse event to one particular vaccine over another. Concomitant administration or a shortened interval is acceptable in certain circumstances (e.g., when school vaccines are already scheduled).

Communications: a new provincial factsheet and updated Manitoba COVID-19 Vaccine: Clinical Practice Guidelines for Immunizers and Health Care Providers, will be available in the coming days at: www.gov.mb.ca/covid19/vaccine/resources.html and www.gov.mb.ca/covid19/vaccine/healthcare-professionals.html. Manufacturer information can be found online at: www.CVDvaccine.ca.

Access: The pediatric vaccine will be offered through provincial and regional vaccine clinics, physicians' offices, pharmacies, urban Indigenous clinics, pop-up community clinics and in First Nation communities. In-school vaccinations, both before and after school hours, will be offered in the coming weeks.

Reporting doses administered: all immunizations administered are to be recorded and reported with the correct product and strength to ensure accurate electronic immunization records.

- Submit tariff 8292 for Pfizer/Comirnaty™ pediatric (10 mcg) doses administered.
- Continue to submit tariff 8251 for Pfizer/Comirnaty™ adolescent/adult (30 mcg) doses administered.

The updated tariff code listing for immunizations is available at:

www.gov.mb.ca/health/publichealth/surveillance/immunization/docs/mims_tariff_codes.pdf.

Distribution and allocation: participating pharmacies and medical clinics can order pediatric vaccine doses using the same method (via a weekly survey) as is done for the vaccine for adolescents/adults.

- If not yet registered, go to manitoba.ca/covid19/vaccine/partners/index.html to register.
- If registered, Manitoba will be including requests for pediatric vaccine in the weekly surveys and the requests will be reviewed and filled accordingly.

Differences between the adolescent/adult and pediatric formulation:

	Adolescent/Adult Formulation	Pediatric Formulation
Age	Aged ≥ 12 years	Aged 5 to ≤ 11 years
Packaging Color	Purple cap (at this time there is no color on the packaging)	Orange on vial cap and packaging
Diluent volume to add to vaccine vial	1.8 ml	1.3 ml
Buffer	Phosphate	Tris/sucrose
Known potential allergens	Polyethylene glycol (PEG) Polysorbate 80	Polyethylene glycol (PEG) Polysorbate 80 Tromethamine (trometamol or Tris)
Injection volume (dose)	0.3 ml (30 micrograms)	0.2 ml (10 micrograms)
Doses per vial	6 doses/vial; low dead volume needle/syringe required	10 doses/vial; low dead volume needle/syringe required

Time to discard after dilution	6 hours	12 hours
Ultra Low Freezer (-90°C to -60°C)	9 months	6 months
Freezer (-25°C to -15°C)	2 weeks	Not recommended at this time
Refrigerator (2°C to 8°C)	1 month (mark on vial or packaging date to be discarded)	10 weeks (mark on vial or packaging date to be discarded)
Room Temperature prior to dilution (up to 25°C)	2 hours	12 hours

Adolescent/adult COVID-19 vaccine tariff code update

There are two new COVID-19 vaccine tariffs included on the updated listing

(www.gov.mb.ca/health/publichealth/surveillance/immunization/docs/mims_tariff_codes.pdf):

- 8293 for Moderna/Spikevax™ half dose (50 mcg)
- 8255 for the Janssen/Johnson & Johnson vaccine

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

Sincerely,

“Original signed by”

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