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COVID-19 Vaccine: Update #59

Updated Booster Recommendations & Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine Now Available for 6 Month to 4 Year Olds

Attention: Physicians, Emergency Departments, Hospital CEOs, Hospital Laboratories, Infection Control Practitioners, Occupational Health Practitioners, Walk-In Clinics/Urgent Care Clinics, Nurse and Nurse Practitioners, EMS, Designated Officers, Midwives, Family Health Teams, Pharmacies, Central LHIN, NSM LHIN, Beausoleil First Nation, Moose Deer Point First Nation, Rama First Nation, Wahta First Nation, Long-term Care Homes, Retirement Homes, Hospices, Coroners, Funeral Directors, Dentists, Group Homes, Homes for Special Care, Optometrists, Corrections, Municipalities, Licensed Child Care Providers

Date: September 27, 2022

A reminder that the bivalent COVID-19 vaccine booster is now available to anyone 18 years of age and older, regardless of how many booster doses they have received to date. A 6-month interval is recommended from their last dose of COVID-19 vaccine or last SARS-CoV-2 infection; however, those who want to receive their booster earlier can do so at a 3-month minimum interval from last vaccine dose or infection.

Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine Now Available for 6 Months to 4 Years of Age

The Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine is now available in Ontario for those 6 months through 4 years of age. This vaccine is a 3-dose series (the currently available Moderna vaccine for 6 months through 4 years of age is a 2-dose series).

Table 1: Recommended and Minimal Intervals for COVID-19 Vaccination

Age	Recommended Intervals	Minimum Intervals
6 months to 4 years	Primary Series Pfizer-BioNTech (3 mcg) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2nd dose, 56 days after 1st dose 3rd dose, 56 days after 2nd dose Moderna (25 mcg) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2nd dose, 56 days after 1st dose Booster Doses – not eligible	Primary Series Pfizer-BioNTech (3 mcg) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2nd dose, 21 days after 1st dose 3rd dose, 56 days after 2nd dose Moderna (25 mcg) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2nd dose, 28 days after 1st dose Booster Doses – not eligible



For those providing COVID-19 vaccine, our COVID-19 Vaccine [Order Form](#) has been updated to include the Pfizer-BioNTech 0 - 4 product. The 0 - 4 Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine comes with a maroon cap, in a 10-dose vial and each dose is 3 mcg of mRNA (0.2 mL).

Table 2: Currently Authorized COVID-19 Vaccine Products and Doses by Age

		6 mo – 4 yrs ¹	5 – 11 yrs	12 – 17 yrs	18 yrs +
Pfizer-BioNTech	Primary Series	3 mcg	10 mcg ²	30 mcg ²	30 mcg ²
	Monovalent Booster		10 mcg ²	30 mcg ²	30 mcg
Moderna	Primary Series	25 mcg ³	50 mcg ³	100 mcg ²	100 mcg
	Monovalent Booster			50 mcg ²	50 mcg
	Bivalent Booster			50 mcg (IC only) ⁴	50 mcg ⁴
Novavax	Primary Series				5 mcg
	Booster				5 mcg ⁵
Janssen⁶	Primary Series				5 x 10 ¹⁰ viral particles
	Booster				5 x 10 ¹⁰ viral particles

¹ There is no preferred product for individuals 6 months to 4 years of age.

² Monovalent Pfizer-BioNTech is the preferred product for a primary series in individuals 5 to 29 years of age, and for booster doses in immunocompetent individuals 5 to 17 years of age and immunocompromised individuals 5 to 11 years of age.

³ Monovalent Moderna (25 mcg) is authorized for individuals 6 months to 5 years of age, and monovalent Moderna (50 mcg) is authorized for individuals 6 to 11 years of age.

⁴ Bivalent Moderna is authorized for individuals 18 years and older. As per NACI, it may be offered to immunocompromised individuals 12 years and older. Administration of bivalent Moderna (50 mcg) is off label in individuals 12-17 years of age and must be given with informed consent.

⁵ Novavax is not currently authorized for use as booster but may be given off-label with informed consent if the individual is not able or willing to receive a booster dose of an mRNA vaccine.

⁶ Janssen should only be given when all other vaccines are contraindicated.

For more information on currently authorized COVID-19 vaccine products and doses by age, refer to the Ministry of Health, [COVID-19 Vaccine Guidance](#) document.

Table 3: Current mRNA COVID-19 Vaccine Product Recommendations

	Age	Product Preference
Primary Series (2 or 3 doses)	6 months to 4 years	No preference between monovalent Pfizer-BioNTech (3 mcg) or monovalent Moderna (25 mcg)
	5 to 11 years	Monovalent Pfizer-BioNTech (10 mcg)
	12 to 29 years	Monovalent Pfizer-BioNTech (30 mcg)
	30+ years	No preference between monovalent Pfizer-BioNTech (30 mcg) or monovalent Moderna (100 mcg)
Booster Doses	6 months to 4 years	N/A: Not eligible for booster doses
	5 to 11 years	Monovalent Pfizer-BioNTech (10 mcg) (this is the only product authorized for this age)
	12+ years	12-17 immunocompetent: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monovalent Pfizer-BioNTech (30 mcg) 12-17 immunocompromised: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bivalent Moderna (50 mcg) 18+: N/A <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bivalent Moderna (50 mcg)

The health unit continues to offer COVID-19 immunization clinics in all health unit offices and pop-up clinics as we are able to, but as we have resumed other immunization activities our capacity for such will be limited. Primary care providers are asked to assist by providing COVID-19 vaccine for their patients.

If you have previously been set up in COVAX and need a password reset, please email covaxsupport@smdhu.org. If you have not previously offered COVID-19 vaccine in your practice and would like to onboard now to offer the vaccine, please email vaccineorders@smdhu.org and one of our staff will be in contact.

The following options for COVID-19 vaccination continue and will be available through the fall:

- [Local pharmacies.](#)
- Health Unit office-based clinics throughout Simcoe Muskoka - appointments available through the [Provincial Vaccine Appointment Booking System](#).
- Community clinic at Georgian Mall in Barrie - appointments available through the [Provincial Vaccine Appointment Booking System](#) – closed to walk-ins at this time.
- [RVH COVID-19 vaccination clinic](#) at 29 Sperling Drive in Barrie – appointments available through the Provincial Vaccine Appointment Booking System and walk ins may be accommodated based on demand.
- [Couchiching OHT COVID-19 vaccination clinic](#) in Orillia at OSMH Kiwanis Building - West Entrance, 170 Colborne St. West.
- GO-VAXX bus throughout Simcoe Muskoka – to access the schedule [click here](#).

Additional COVID-19 Vaccine Information

For more detailed information about eligibility and guidance, please refer to the [Ministry of Health COVID-19 Vaccine Guidance](#) document.

For more information about the rollout of COVID-19 vaccine in our area, please refer to the SMDHU [COVID-19 Vaccine and Immunization](#) webpages.

There are a number of COVID-19 resources and documents available through our Health Professional Portal at www.smdhu.org/hpportal as well as through [Public Health Ontario](#) and the [Government of Ontario](#).