

September 21, 2022

Bivalent COVID-19 Vaccine: Expanded Eligibility

Dear Health Care Provider:

Manitoba Health is expanding the eligibility criteria for the bivalent vaccine to include all individuals 18 years of age and older, **effective September 22nd, 2022**.

Please be reminded of the following:

At this point, the bivalent vaccine is only authorized as a booster dose. Individuals must complete their primary series of vaccine (usually two doses) before they can receive the bivalent vaccine.

Manitoba Health recommends that individuals 18 years of age and older be offered the bivalent vaccine, as it provides increased protection against omicron variants. The monovalent booster should be offered to 12-17 year olds as well as individuals 18 years of age and older who choose not to receive the bivalent booster option. This is in line with NACI recommendations that everyone 12 years of age and older be offered a fall booster dose.

Interval between Doses

It is recommended to wait six months from the last dose of a COVID-19 vaccine to receive a bivalent or monovalent booster dose. However, individuals who meet the eligibility criteria can receive a booster dose with a minimum of three months between doses.

Previous Infection

It is also recommended for individuals to wait 6 months since their last COVID-19 infection. At minimum, they need to be fully recovered before receiving a booster dose.

Program Information

COVID-19 vaccine eligibility information is available at:
<https://manitoba.ca/covid19/vaccine/eligibility-criteria.html>

The Moderna bivalent product monograph is available at:
https://www.gov.mb.ca/asset_library/en/covidvaccine/moderna-bivalent-pm.pdf.

A provincial factsheet is available at:
<https://www.gov.mb.ca/covid19/vaccine/resources.html#factsheets>.

Recommendations from the National Advisory Committee on Immunization (NACI) on the use of the bivalent vaccine are available at:

<https://www.canada.ca/content/dam/phacaspc/documents/services/immunization/national-advisory-committee-on-immunizationnaci/recommendations-use-bivalent-Omicron-containing-mrna-covid-19-vaccines.pdf>.

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

Sincerely,

“Original Signed By”

Richard Baydack, PhD
**Director,
Communicable Disease Control**

“Original Signed By”

Davinder Singh, MD, MSc, FRCPC
**Medical Lead, Vaccines,
Communicable Disease Control**