

# COVID-19 mRNA Vaccines: Summary of Use for health care providers

November 24, 2021

**Purpose:** This document is a summary of use of the mRNA vaccines (Pfizer BioNTech Comirnaty and Moderna Spikevax) for health care providers, which can be used as a quick reference in clinical settings administering these vaccines. For more information, please see the National Advisory Committee on Immunization [statements and publications for COVID-19 vaccines](#) and product details from Health Canada for [Pfizer-BioNTech Comirnaty](#) and [Moderna Spikevax](#) vaccines.

## Pfizer-BioNTech Comirnaty (as of November 24, 2021)

| Population  | Formulation<br>Diluent volume         | Dose                      | Recommended Schedule   |
|---|---------------------------------------|---------------------------|--|
| <b>Primary series for 12 years of age and over</b><br><i>Not moderately to severely immunocompromised</i> | Adult/adolescent<br>1.8 ml of diluent | <b>0.3 ml</b><br>(30 mcg) | <b>Two doses</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>8-week interval between first and second dose considered optimal</li> <li>May book a 28-day interval</li> </ul>  |
| <b>Primary series for 12 years of age and over for moderately or severely immunocompromised</b>           | Adult/adolescent<br>1.8 ml of diluent | <b>0.3 ml</b><br>(30 mcg) | <b>Three doses</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>May book a 28-day interval between dose 1 and 2.</li> <li>May book a 28-day interval between dose 2 and 3</li> <li>Longer intervals may result in a better immune response but may result in being susceptible for longer between doses</li> </ul> |
| <b>Booster dose for eligible populations</b>  | Adult/adolescent<br>1.8 ml of diluent | <b>0.3 ml</b><br>(30 mcg) | <b>One dose</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>6 months (at least 168 days) from completion of primary series</li> </ul>   |
| <b>Primary series for children 5 to 11 years of age</b>   | Pediatric<br>1.3 ml of diluent        | <b>0.2 ml</b><br>(10 mcg) | <b>Two doses</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>At least 8 weeks between first and second dose</li> <li>Avoid routine concomitant vaccination at this time</li> </ul>  |

## Moderna Spikevax (as of November 24, 2021)

| Population  | Dose                        | Schedule  |
|---|-----------------------------|---|
| <b>Primary series for 18 years of age and over</b><br><i>Not moderately to severely immunocompromised</i> | <b>0.5 ml</b><br>(100 mcg)  | <b>Two doses</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>8-week interval between first and second dose considered optimal</li> <li>May book a 28-day interval between dose 1 and 2</li> </ul>  |
| <b>Primary series for 18 years of age and over for moderately or severely immunocompromised</b>           | <b>0.5 ml</b><br>(100 mcg)  | <b>Three doses</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>May book a 28-day interval between dose 1 and 2</li> <li>May book a 28-day interval between dose 2 and 3</li> <li>Longer intervals may result in a better immune response but may result in being susceptible for longer between doses</li> </ul> |
| <b>Booster dose for long-term care residents and seniors in congregate living settings</b>                | <b>0.5 ml</b><br>(100 mcg)  | <b>One dose</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>6 months (at least 168 days) from completion of primary series</li> </ul>  |
| <b>Booster dose for eligible populations living in community</b>  | <b>0.25 ml</b><br>(50 mcg)* | <b>One dose</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>6 months (at least 168 days) from completion of initial series</li> </ul>  |

### \* Moderna Vial Puncture Limit

**Do not puncture the vial more than 20 times.**

US labelled Moderna 15 full dose vials remain within Nova Scotia's vaccine inventory. Moderna has sufficient data to support that their product remains sterile and stable with 20 punctures. Moderna has indicated that the rationale for the 20-puncture limit is a limitation of the rubber stopper. As with any immunization from a vial, it is preferable to pierce the stopper at a different site with each puncture. At 20 punctures, there could be a physical limitation of achieving different entry points into the rubber stopper. For half-doses of boosters, greater than 20 punctures would be required to enable administration of all of the US labelled Moderna vial presentation. Due to Moderna's direction on vial puncture limit, it is expected that there will be wastage of US labelled Moderna vaccine with fractional dosing.