



## Bivalent COVID-19 Vaccine Information Sheet

### General Recommendations for Fall COVID-19 Booster Doses

- NACI (National Advisory Committee on Immunization) continues to recommend a **bivalent** Omicron-containing mRNA COVID-19 vaccine as the preferred booster product for those 5 years of age and older who are recommended to receive a booster dose.
- The recommended interval between doses of COVID-19 vaccine for those 5 years and older is 168 days (6 months), the minimum interval between doses is 84 days (3 months).
- A booster dose is recommended 6 months (168 day) after a COVID infection and may provide a better immune response.
  - However, a minimum interval of 3 months (84 days) after symptom onset or positive test (if asymptomatic) may be considered for high-risk individuals.
- Bivalent booster vaccines are expected to provide a broader immune response and improved protection against the Omicron variants and subvariants.
  - The BA.4 and BA.5 Omicron subvariants are currently the dominant strains of the COVID-19 virus circulating in Canada.
  - **There is currently no evidence to suggest any meaningful difference in protection between different bivalent booster vaccines targeting BA.1 versus BA.4/5**

### Bivalent Omicron-containing mRNA COVID-19 Vaccines

<p><b>Pediatric Bivalent Pfizer Vaccine (5-11 only)</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 10 mcg, containing BA.4/5 variant of Omicron</li> <li>• <b>Only bivalent booster available for individuals 5-11 years old.</b></li> </ul>
<p><b>Pfizer Bivalent Vaccine (12+)</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 30 mcg, containing BA.4/5 variant of Omicron</li> <li>• <b>Only bivalent booster available for individuals 12-17 years old.</b></li> </ul>
<p><b>Moderna Bivalent Vaccine (18+)</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 50 mcg, containing BA.1 variant of Omicron</li> <li>• <b>NEW</b> On November 3, 2022, Health Canada authorized the use of the Moderna Spikevax 50 mcg BA.4/5 bivalent COVID-19 vaccine as a booster dose in individuals 18 years of age and older; <b>RCDHU does not currently have this vaccine. It is unknown when we will receive this vaccine in Renfrew County.</b></li> </ul>

NACI's Recommendations on the use of the Moderna Spikevax BA.4/5 bivalent mRNA (50 mcg) COVID\_19 booster vaccine in adults. November 3, 2022. <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/publications/vaccines-immunization/summary-national-advisory-committee-immunization-november-3-2022-recommendations-use-moderna-spikevax-bivalent-mrna-50-mcg-covid-19-booster-vaccine-adults.html>

NACI's updated recommendations on the use of COVID-19 vaccines booster doses in children 5-11 years of age and concurrent vaccine administration. December 9, 2022: <https://www.canada.ca/content/dam/phac-aspc/documents/services/immunization/national-advisory-committee-on-immunization-naci/updated-recommendations-use-covid-19-vaccine-booster-doses-children-5-11-years-concurrent-administration.pdf>

Ministry of Health Document: COVID-19 Vaccine Guidance, Version 4.0 December 20, 2022 (or as current): [https://www.health.gov.on.ca/en/pro/programs/publichealth/coronavirus/docs/vaccine/COVID-19\\_vaccine\\_administration.pdf](https://www.health.gov.on.ca/en/pro/programs/publichealth/coronavirus/docs/vaccine/COVID-19_vaccine_administration.pdf)

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