

April 2, 2024

TO: Saskatchewan Health Authority
Indigenous Services Canada- SK Region
Saskatchewan College of Respiratory Therapists
Saskatchewan College of Pharmacy Professionals
Saskatchewan Association of Licensed Practical Nurses
College of Physicians and Surgeons of Saskatchewan
Registered Psychiatric Nurses Association of Saskatchewan
Drug Plan and Extended Benefits Branch

Northern Intertribal Health Authority
Saskatchewan Medical Association
Saskatchewan College of Paramedics
College of Registered Nurses of Saskatchewan

Re: Additional COVID-19 XBB.1.5 Vaccine Dose Eligibility and Recommendations

Dear Colleagues,

On January 12, 2024, the National Advisory Committee on Immunization (NACI) released the [Guidance on an additional dose of COVID-19 vaccines in the spring of 2024 for individuals at high risk of severe illness due to COVID-19](#) statement that recommends an additional COVID-19 XBB.1.5 vaccine dose for individuals at high risk of severe COVID-19 illness and outcomes including children, adults, and seniors.

Effective April 8 to June 30, 2024, the following individuals are recommended to receive an additional XBB.1.5 COVID-19 vaccine dose given six or more months (minimum of three months) from their last COVID-19 XBB.1.5 dose or COVID-19 infection (whichever interval is longer as applicable):

- Adults 65 years of age and older.
- Adults 18 to 64 years old residing in long-term care facilities, personal care homes, and congregate living settings (i.e., assisted living settings) that have residents 65+ years.
- Individuals six months of age and older who are moderately to severely immunocompromised with medical conditions described at <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/publications/healthy-living/canadian-immunization-guide-part-4-active-vaccines/page-26-covid-19-vaccine.html#a6.4.considerations>.
- The additional dose recommendations in **Table 1** will be posted soon in the *Saskatchewan Immunization Manual* [Chapter 10](#).

In anticipation of a 2024 fall COVID-19 immunization campaign, these parameters apply:

- **Until June 30, 2024:**
 - Those six months of age and older **who are not yet immunized with XBB.1.5 vaccine** continue to be eligible to receive/start an age-appropriate XBB.1.5 dose/series, given six months (minimum of three months) from their previous non-XBB.1.5 dose or previous COVID-19 infection (whichever interval is longer as applicable). The series can be completed after June 30, if necessary.
- **As of July 1, 2024:**
 - Only moderately to severely immunocompromised children who are six months to four years old **may start** an age-appropriate XBB.1.5 dose/series, given six months (minimum of three months) from their previous non-XBB.1.5 dose or previous COVID-19 infection (whichever interval is longer as applicable). The series can be completed using recommended intervals.



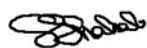
Table 1: Additional XBB.1.5 COVID-19 Vaccine Dose Eligibility

- Effective April 8 to June 30, 2024, the following individuals are recommended to receive **one** additional XBB.1.5 COVID-19 vaccine dose given at least **6 months** (min. 3 months) from their last COVID-19 XBB.1.5 dose or COVID-19 infection (whichever interval is longer as applicable):
 - Adults 65 years of age and older.
 - Adults 18 to 64 years old residing in long-term care facilities, personal care homes, and congregate living settings (i.e., assisted living settings) that have senior residents 65+ years.
 - Congregate living settings which may have residents 65 years of age and older, and have adult residents 18-64 years of age **who are not eligible** for an additional dose unless they are moderately to severely immunocompromised may include:
 - Group homes
 - Dorms
 - Correctional institutions
 - Individuals six months of age and older who are moderately to severely immunocompromised with medical conditions described at <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/publications/healthy-living/canadian-immunization-guide-part-4-active-vaccines/page-26-covid-19-vaccine.html#a6.4.considerations>.

Age	XBB.1.5 COVID-19 Vaccine and Dosage
12+ years	Moderna = 0.5 ml (50 mcg)
	Pfizer 12+ = 0.3 ml (30 mcg) (Grey cap/label)
	Novavax 12+ = 0.5 ml (5 mcg)
5-11 years	Moderna = 0.25 ml (25 mcg)
	Pfizer 5-11 = 0.3 ml (10 mcg) (Blue cap/label)
6 mo-4 yrs	Moderna = 0.25 ml (25 mcg)
	Pfizer 6 mo-4 years = 0.2 ml (3 mcg) (Maroon cap/label)

Reference: NACI (2024-01-12) [Guidance on an additional dose of COVID-19 vaccines in the spring for individuals at high risk of severe illness due to COVID-19](#).

Sincerely,



Dr. Saqib Shahab
Chief Medical Health Officer