

August 27, 2021

COVID-19 Vaccine: Recommendations for Immunizing Adolescents

On August 27, 2021, Health Canada expanded authorization of the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine to include adolescents 12 years of age and older (prior to this, Pfizer was the only COVID-19 vaccine approved for use in adolescents). Clinical trial findings suggest a complete series of an mRNA vaccine provides very good protection against symptomatic COVID-19 infection and has a favorable benefit versus risk profile in adolescents aged 12 years and older.

Manitoba public health officials continue to recommend that a complete series with a Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine be offered to eligible adolescents 12 to 17 years of age, who do not have contraindications to the vaccine where feasible. Manitoba has ample supply as well as more experience and safety data in this age group with the Pfizer product at this time. As a precautionary measure, the National Advisory Committee on Immunization (NACI) continues to advise that individuals who experienced myocarditis and/or pericarditis following vaccination with a first dose of an mRNA vaccine, defer the second dose until more information is available.

Factsheets, product monographs, and Manitoba COVID-19 Vaccine: Clinical Practice Guidelines for Immunizers and Health Care Providers will be updated to reflect this change and posted at: <https://www.gov.mb.ca/covid19/vaccine/resources.html> and <https://www.gov.mb.ca/covid19/vaccine/healthcare-professionals.html>.

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

Sincerely,



Tim Hilderman, MD FRCPC
Medical Lead, Vaccines
Communicable Disease Control