
TO/DESTINATAIRE : Physician, Nursing and Pharmacy Staff
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SUBJECT/OBJET : **COVID-19 Vaccine Precautions and contraindications**

COVID-19 vaccine Precautions and Contraindications

The below information are to be used as a guideline and do not replace sound clinical judgement and professional practice standards.

- 1- The authorized COVID-19 vaccine is contraindicated in individuals with a history of anaphylaxis after previous administration of the vaccine. Vaccine is also contraindicated in persons with proven immediate or anaphylactic hypersensitivity to any component of the vaccine or its packaging. Clinical trials of the authorized COVID-19 vaccines excluded individuals with a history of severe adverse reaction associated with a vaccine and/or severe allergic reaction (e.g., anaphylaxis) to any component of the vaccine. Individuals with a history of severe allergic reaction to a component of the COVID-19 vaccine should not receive the COVID-19 vaccine.

For a comprehensive list of components in the vaccine and packaging, please consult the product leaflet or information contained within the product monograph available through [Health Canada's Drug Product Database](#).

Potential non-medicinal ingredients in the vaccines known to cause type 1 hypersensitivity reactions ranging from mild cutaneous reactions to anaphylaxis of polyethylene glycol (PEG).

Adapted from: National Advisory Committee on Immunization (NACI): Statements and publications: Recommendations on the use of COVID-19 vaccines.

- 2- **For Immunocompromised residents** – As part of the approval of these novel vaccines, NACI (National Advisory Committee on Immunization) has stated the lack of evidence in immunocompromised specific populations necessitates enhanced consent. It is not a safety issue. It is due to the potential for decreased benefit or decreased vaccine efficacy.

For our PCH residents, this acknowledgment of lack of evidence is required but we know that the risks of COVID-19 infection are so high that the risks trump any decrease vaccine efficacy.

- 3- **For Autoimmune condition**, NACI's position is that there is a lack of evidence in this population. Despite this position, people with stable autoimmune disease were not excluded from the trials. There was no

signal that there were increased adverse events associated vaccination of people with stable autoimmune conditions. As per Dr. Tim Hilderman's comments "Again, in PCH, where the risk of COVID-19 infection is high and the outcomes poor, the emphasis is on offering residents vaccination rather than excluding them."

4- Residents falling into one or more of the categories listed below are unlikely to mount an acceptable immune response to COVID-19 vaccine at this time and should therefore, not be immunized. These residents require further consult with a relevant specialist before immunizing:

- Individuals receiving an allogeneic or autologous stem cell transplant or CAR-T therapy within the last 6 months.
- Individuals who have experienced a multiple sclerosis (MS) relapse in the last 8 weeks.
- Solid organ transplant recipients: pre-transplant within 2 weeks of transplant and post-transplant within the last 1 month regardless of induction therapy.
- Individuals who are taking, or have taken, one or more of the following medications within the last 6 months:
 - Alemtuzumab
 - Anti-Thymocyte Globulin (ATG) / Thymoglobulin
 - Basiliximab
 - Blinatumomab
 - Obinatuzumab
 - Ocrelizumab
 - Ofatumumab
 - Rituximab

For most up to date information about the COVID-19 vaccination in Manitoba, please follow the below link:

<https://www.manitoba.ca/covid19/vaccine/index.html>

- Consent Form ([link here](#))
- Enhanced Consent Form ([link here](#))
- Guideline for use of Enhance Consent Form ([link here](#))
- Fact Sheet ([link here](#))

Thank you for your support of the ongoing SHSS efforts to manage the COVID-19 pandemic. If you have any questions, please contact Rizwan Ahmed rahmed@southernhealth.ca