

Updates to the Alberta Covid-19 Pharmacy Immunization Program (ACPIP)

Effective **December 21, 2021**, the eligibility for a third dose (booster) of COVID-19 vaccine was expanded to include Albertan's **age 18 and older** whose second dose was administered **at least five (5) calendar months prior**.

ELIGIBILITY FOR THIRD DOSE OF COVID-19 VACCINE (DEC 21, 2021)

GROUP	MINIMUM TIME BETWEEN SECOND AND THIRD DOSES
Albertans aged 18 and older	Five months
First Nations, Métis and Inuit people aged 18 and older living on or off a reserve, or on or off a settlement	
Health care workers who have contact with patients	
Those who received a full series of viral vector vaccines (two doses of AstraZeneca or one dose of Janssen vaccine)	
Seniors living in congregate care	
Individuals with eligible immunocompromising conditions or medications which affect the immune system	Eight weeks

When an Albertan books a COVID-19 vaccine appointment through the Alberta Vaccine Booking System (AVBS), it is based on the honour system. The AVBS does not confirm eligibility based on an Albertan's age and spacing between second and third doses.

Updates to the biologic pages specific to each COVID-19 vaccine including eligibility, dosage and clinical updates have been made and can be found in the [Alberta immunization policy](#).

MODERNA (SpikeVax) CV-19 vaccine third dose reminder

A new PIN [**PIN 20003072 - Moderna Booster Half Dose 50mcg (Age 12-64 years)**] has been established when administering a half dose (50mcg) of MODERNA COVID-19 Vaccine as a third dose to an eligible individual under the age of 65 years and with no risk factors.

Albertans can receive either mRNA (Moderna or Pfizer) vaccine for their booster, independent of what vaccines they previously received and **should be encouraged to get whatever vaccine is available**. Moderna vaccine is approved for people 12 years of age and over but recommended for people 30 years of age and over. Pfizer vaccine is recommended for use in people 12 to 29 years of age based on lower risk of myocarditis, which is a rare adverse event.

The [Reference guide](#) for pharmacists billing COVID-19 vaccinations contains a complete list of COVID-19 vaccine PINS.

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PHARMACY BENEFACT

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QR code vaccine records

The QR code indicates the number of doses and dates that an Albertan received COVID-19 immunizations but will not display the actual antigen dosage and may not display the lot number or expiry date of the vaccine. This meets all requirements for Canadians wishing to travel domestically or internationally.

Pharmacy teams are asked to remind their clients to acquire the updated version of the Alberta COVID record and QR code if they have not done so since the November 29, 2021 update.

Update to waste mitigation guidance

The ACPIP wastage mitigation guidance has been updated to allow for more effective mitigation of vaccine product wastage in pharmacies. Pharmacies are reminded to regularly review the wastage guidance at www.ab.bluecross.ca/pdfs/ACPIP-Vaccine-Wastage-Guidance.pdf to ensure they are following the most recent guidance.

Pharmacies are encouraged to work in advance to develop an evolving **on-call or standby list of individuals** over the age of 18 years whose second dose was administered at least five months ago. The individuals on this list can be called and offered immunization with any doses remaining at the end of the day. Individuals should be prioritized within the on-call or standby list by age and other risk factors (such as immunocompromised or other health conditions).

Take-home rapid antigen testing kits

For details pertaining to these testing kits, please review the reference guide at www.ab.bluecross.ca/provider/type/pharmacy/covid-19-immunization.php

For assistance with benefit or claim inquiries, please contact an Alberta Blue Cross Pharmacy Services Provider Relations contact centre representative at

780-498-8370 (Edmonton and area)

403-294-4041 (Calgary and area)

1-800-361-9632 (toll free)

FAX 780-498-8406 (Edmonton and area)

FAX 1-877-305-9911 (toll free)

Alberta Blue Cross offers online access to current Pharmacy Benefacts and supplemental claiming information to assist with the submission of your direct bill drug claims.

Visit ab.bluecross.ca/providers/pharmacy-home.php

