

Update: COVID-19 vaccines

The current recommendations for COVID-19 vaccines from Alberta Health aligns with the National Advisory Committee on Immunization (NACI).

Alberta Health continues to recommend a primary series with an original (monovalent) mRNA COVID-19 vaccine in all authorized age groups, and a booster dose since the fall of 2022. The recommended booster is one with an Omicron-containing bivalent mRNA COVID-19 vaccine for those who are eligible.

Booster doses

When used for booster doses, the bivalent mRNA COVID-19 vaccine booster dose eligibility is as follows:

Albertans 12 years of age and older are eligible if they

- have not yet received a Spikevax (Moderna) or Comirnaty (Pfizer-BioNTech) **bivalent booster** dose on or after September 21, 2022; or
- received a Spikevax (Moderna) or Comirnaty (Pfizer-BioNTech) **original (monovalent) vaccine**, Novavax vaccine or Janssen vaccine as their booster dose on or after September 21, 2022.
 - If the bivalent mRNA booster dose is **refused**, administration of an additional booster dose of other vaccines is **not permitted**.

Children 5 to 11 years of age are eligible if they

- completed a COVID-19 vaccine primary series and have not yet received an **original (monovalent) vaccine** booster dose; or
- previously received a Comirnaty (Pfizer-BioNTech) **original (monovalent) vaccine** booster dose and have one of the eligible underlying medical conditions.

Albertans who received a bivalent mRNA COVID-19 booster dose on or after September 21, 2022, are considered up to date and are not currently eligible for another booster dose.

NACI released a statement on March 3 regarding “spring boosters.” There will be updated guidance shortly.

Original (monovalent) mRNA COVID-19 vaccines should only be used for Albertans requiring a **primacy vaccine series** at this time. Spikevax (Moderna) and Comirnaty (Pfizer-BioNTech) original (monovalent) vaccines **are no longer offered as booster doses**.

Comirnaty Pediatric (Pfizer-BioNTech) original (monovalent) mRNA vaccine (5 to 11 years)

Current stock of Comirnaty Pediatric (Pfizer-BioNTech) original (monovalent) mRNA COVID-19 vaccine will expire **March 31, 2023**, and due to a supply delay in Canada until further notice, children 5 to 11 years of age starting or completing a primary series will be referred to Alberta Health Services (AHS). Albertans can book appointments with AHS by calling 811 or booking online through the Alberta Vaccine Booking System (AVBS) at bookvaccine.alberta.ca.

Updated list of PINs for COVID-19 immunization

The following table is the complete list of PINs to be used by pharmacies for COVID-19 immunizations:

continued next page

PHARMACY BENEFACT

continued from previous page

| Reason code | Descriptor | PIN (pharmacy use) |
|-------------|---|--|
| 3 | Health care workers not including LTC/DSL | 10000003 (Pfizer/BioNTech monovalent) |
| | | 20000003 (Moderna monovalent) |
| | | 21800003 (Moderna bivalent BA.1) |
| 44 | LTC/DSL staff | 10000044 (Pfizer/BioNTech monovalent) |
| | | 20000044 (Moderna monovalent) |
| | | 21800044 (Moderna bivalent BA.1) |
| 22 | LTC/DSL resident | 10000022 (Pfizer/BioNTech monovalent) |
| | | 20000022 (Moderna monovalent) |
| | | 21800022 (Moderna bivalent BA.1) |
| 70 | Other congregate care living settings (e.g., senior lodges, corrections, group homes) | 10000070 (Pfizer/BioNTech monovalent) |
| | | 20000070 (Moderna monovalent) |
| | | 21800070 (Moderna bivalent BA.1) |
| 2 | Advanced age (65+) | 10000002 (Pfizer/BioNTech monovalent) |
| | | 20000002 (Moderna monovalent) |
| | | 21800002 (Moderna bivalent BA.1) |
| | | 11700002 (Pfizer/BioNTech bivalent BA4.5) |
| | | 10000066 (Pfizer/BioNTech monovalent) |
| 66 | Other risk (individuals 12* years to 64 years of age with underlying health conditions, see appendix for details) | 20000066 (Moderna monovalent) |
| | | 21800066 (Moderna bivalent BA.1) only 18+ |
| 72 | 12* years to 64 years of age | 10000072 (Pfizer/BioNTech monovalent) |
| | | 20000072 (Moderna monovalent) |
| | | 20003072 (Moderna monovalent booster half dose 50 mcg) |
| | | 11700072 (Pfizer/BioNTech bivalent BA4.5) |
| | | 21800072 (Moderna bivalent BA.1) only 18+ |
| 74 | COVID-19 additional dose for travel | 10000074 (Pfizer/BioNTech monovalent) |
| | | 20000074 (Moderna monovalent) |
| 75 | 5 years to 11 years of age** | 11000075 (Pediatric Pfizer/BioNTech monovalent) |
| | | 21000075 (Moderna monovalent 50 mcg dose for 6 years to 11 years of age) |

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

