

From: Dr. Janice Fitzgerald, Chief Medical Officer of Health
To: Newfoundland and Labrador Health Services, and Other Health Care Providers
Re: Update on COVID-19 Vaccine Recommendations
Date: March 22, 2024

On January 12, 2024, the National Advisory Committee on Immunization (NACI) provided an update on the use of [COVID-19 vaccines in high-risk populations during the spring of 2024](#). Vaccination for protection against COVID-19 is recommended for the following groups:

- Adults 65 years of age and older
- Adult residents of long-term care homes and other congregate living settings for seniors
- Individuals 6 months of age and older who are [moderately to severely immunocompromised](#) (due to underlying conditions or treatment)

Individuals eligible for vaccination during the Fall 2023 campaign that did not receive one are also eligible for vaccination during this spring 2024 campaign.

Health care providers can now offer a spring dose of COVID-19 vaccine to individuals in the categories above. XBB.1.5-containing COVID-19 vaccines continue to be the recommended products for all eligible individuals. When administering vaccine for the spring 2024 campaign, an interval of six months from a previous dose should be used. A shorter interval of no less than three months from a previous dose can be considered to support program implementation in long-term care and senior congregate living facilities. An interval of three to six months from a previous dose can also be considered for individuals that meet the criteria above and present to public health for immunization, based on an informed discussion of the risks and benefits of vaccination. Individuals eligible for a spring dose that are not living in congregate living facilities are encouraged to reach out to their local public health office or pharmacist to book a vaccine appointment.

The vaccine administration for the spring 2024 campaign will end by May 1, 2024, to allow for appropriate intervals and planning for a potential Fall 2024 campaign.

In addition to spring campaign recommendations, NACI also provided updated recommendations on the use of Novavax vaccine. For individuals 12 of age and older that have not been previously vaccinated, the following recommendations apply:

- Individuals who are not immunocompromised and receiving Novavax Nuvaxovid XBB.1.5 may follow a 1-dose schedule.
- Individuals who are moderately to severely immunocompromised should receive at least 2 doses of Novavax Nuvaxovid XBB.1.5, with a 4 to 8-week interval between doses.