

# COVID-19 Vaccine – Moderna Spikevax mRNA Vaccine and Pfizer-BioNTech Comirnaty mRNA Vaccine

## BIOLOGICAL PAGE

<b>Section 7</b>	Biological Product Information	<b>Standard # 07.228</b>	
<b>Created and approved by</b>	Provincial Immunization Program Standards and Quality		
<b>Approval date</b>	October 1, 2025	<b>Published</b>	March 31, 2026

	Moderna Spikevax Vaccine	Pfizer-BioNTech Comirnaty Vaccine
<b>Manufacturer</b>	Moderna Biopharma Canada Corp.	BioNTech Manufacturing GmbH
<b>Classification</b>	Non-live: mRNA vaccine	
<b>COVID-19 vaccine strain</b>	LP.8.1	
<b>Indications for use</b>	Individuals 6 months of age and older	Individuals 12 years of age and older
<b>Fall/Winter 2025 - 2026 Eligibility for Provincially Funded COVID-19 vaccine</b>	<p>A dose of LP.8.1 COVID-19 vaccine will be available, free of charge, to individuals who are at an increased risk of severe illness from COVID-19 infection or at an increased risk of exposure and transmission to others. This includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Eligible healthcare workers</a></li> <li>• Albertans who reside in continuing care homes, senior supportive living accommodations</li> <li>• Home care clients who are homebound</li> <li>• Individuals 6 months of age and older who have certain <a href="#">moderate to severe immunocompromising conditions</a> or <a href="#">underlying medical conditions</a></li> <li>• Individuals experiencing homelessness</li> <li>• Individuals 65 years of age and older who are receiving the Alberta Seniors Benefit</li> <li>• Teachers (vaccine administered through Public Health is provided at no cost to teachers).</li> </ul> <p>Individuals who are not considered to be at the highest of risk of severe illness from COVID-19 may still be able to access COVID-19 vaccine. A \$100 administrative fee may apply per dose/series.</p> <p><b>Note:</b> Eligible healthcare workers include the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Individuals actively <a href="#">registered with one of the regulatory colleges in Alberta.</a></li> <li>• Union members (for example, UNA, HSAA, AUNP, AUPE, CUPE) as well as individuals who work in patient-facing settings such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Hospital staff (including students in health disciplines, contract workers and volunteers)</li> <li>○ Staff in community health settings (for example, clinical labs, home care and shelters)</li> <li>○ Medical first responders</li> <li>○ Staff in continuing care and supportive living</li> <li>○ Disability support workers and staff working in recovery settings</li> <li>○ Health care aides on the provincial registry</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	

	Moderna Spikevax Vaccine	Pfizer-BioNTech Comirnaty Vaccine
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Students training in facilities such as hospitals, clinics, pharmacies, continuing care homes and supportive living accommodations.</li> </ul>	
<b>Additional LP.8.1 COVID-19 vaccine dose (starting April 7, 2026)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The following individuals, who are at an increased risk of severe illness from COVID-19 infection, may receive an additional dose* of LP.8.1 COVID-19 vaccine free of charge. This includes:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Adults 80 years of age or older;</li> <li>Adult residents of long-term care homes and other congregate living settings for seniors;</li> <li>Individuals 6 months of age and older who are <a href="#">moderately to severely immunocompromised</a> (due to an underlying condition or treatment);</li> <li>Adults 65 to 79 years of age with <a href="#">underlying medical conditions</a> that place them at higher risk of severe COVID-19.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>*One dose, at least 3 months from previous LP.8.1 COVID-19 vaccine dose.</p> <p><b>Note:</b> Individuals who do not meet the criteria listed above are <u>not</u> eligible for an additional dose of provincially funded LP.8.1 COVID-19 vaccine.</p>	
<b>Dose</b>	<b>6 months to 11 years of age</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>0.25 mL (25 mcg)</li> </ul> <b>12 years of age and older</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>0.5 mL (50 mcg)</li> </ul>	<b>12 years of age and older</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>0.3 mL (30 mcg)</li> </ul>
<b>Route</b>	Intramuscular injection	
<b>Schedule for healthy immunocompetent individuals</b>	<p><b>Individuals 6 months to 4 years of age</b></p> <p><b>Previously unimmunized</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Dose 1: day 0</li> <li>Dose 2: at least 8 weeks after dose 1.</li> </ul> <p><b>Previously immunized with 1 dose of COVID-19 vaccine, regardless of product type</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 dose, at least 8 weeks from the previous dose.</li> </ul> <p><b>Previously received 2 or more COVID-19 vaccine doses, regardless of product type</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 dose, at least 3 months from the previous dose.</li> </ul> <p><b>Note</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Individuals 6 months to 4 years of age should complete a 2-dose series of COVID-19 vaccine regardless of the product that was administered for the first dose. The series should not be restarted.</li> </ul> <p><b>Individuals 5 years of age and older</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 dose, at least 3 months from previous COVID-19 vaccine dose,</li> </ul>	<p><b>Individuals 12 years of age and older</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 dose, at least 3 months from previous COVID-19 vaccine dose, regardless of the number of doses received in the past.</li> </ul>

	Moderna Spikevax Vaccine	Pfizer-BioNTech Comirnaty Vaccine
	regardless of the number of doses received in the past.	
<b>Schedule for individuals with certain moderate to severe immunocompromising conditions</b>	<p><b>Individuals 6 months of age and older</b></p> <p><b>Unimmunized/previously received fewer than 3 doses of non-LP.8.1 COVID-19 vaccine</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Immunocompromised individuals should follow the schedule below and receive the appropriate number of COVID-19 vaccine doses to complete a 3-dose COVID-19 vaccine series. Regardless of whether they have received 1 or 2 non-LP.8.1 COVID-19 vaccine doses, count the previous dose(s) and do not restart the series. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Dose 1: day 0</li> <li>Dose 2: 28 days after dose 1</li> <li>Dose 3: 8 weeks after dose 2 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A minimum interval of 4 weeks may be considered.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><b>Previously received 3 or more doses of COVID-19 vaccine</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 dose, at least 3 months from previous non-LP.8.1 COVID-19 vaccine dose, regardless of the number of doses received in the past.</li> </ul> <p><b>Note</b></p> <p>Specific immunocompromising conditions that make an individual eligible for provincially funded COVID-19 vaccine include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Solid organ transplant recipients <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><a href="#">Immunization for Children Expecting Solid Organ Transplant Before 18 Months of Age</a></li> <li><a href="#">Immunization for Children Expecting Solid Organ Transplant After 18 Months of Age</a></li> <li><a href="#">Immunization for Adult Solid Organ Transplant (SOT) Candidates and Recipients</a></li> </ul> </li> <li>Hematopoietic stem cell transplants recipients – pre-transplant and post-transplant while in immunosuppressed state and individuals receiving Chimeric Antigen Receptor (CAR) T-Cell therapy. See: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><a href="#">Standard for Immunization of Transplant Candidates and Recipients</a></li> <li><a href="#">Immunization for Child HSCT Transplant Recipients</a></li> <li><a href="#">Immunization for Adult HSCT Transplant Recipients</a></li> </ul> </li> <li>Individuals with malignant hematologic disorders and non-hematologic malignant solid tumors while receiving active treatment. Active treatment includes chemotherapy, targeted therapies, and immunotherapy, but does not include individuals receiving solely hormonal therapy, radiation therapy or a surgical intervention.</li> <li>Individuals with chronic kidney disease on peritoneal dialysis or hemodialysis.</li> <li>Individuals on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Long term high-dose systemic steroid treatment (prednisone equivalent of greater than or equal to 2 mg/kg/day or 20 mg/day if weight greater than 10 kg, for greater than or equal to 14 days)</li> <li>Alkylating agents</li> <li>Anti-B-cell therapies (including anti-CD19, anti-CD20, anti-CD22 and anti-CD52 monoclonal antibodies such as rituximab, ocrelizumab, and ofatumumab)</li> <li>Antimetabolites such as methotrexate, azathioprine, mycophenolate</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	

	Moderna Spikevax Vaccine	Pfizer-BioNTech Comirnaty Vaccine
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Tumor-necrosis factor (TNF) inhibitors such as adalimumab, certolizumab, etanercept, golimumab, infliximab.</li> <li>• Individuals with HIV infection without viral suppression or those with acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS).</li> <li>• Individuals with moderate to severe primary immunodeficiency such as DiGeorge syndrome, Wiskott-Aldrich syndrome.</li> <li>• Documentation of immunocompromising conditions is not required.</li> <li>• Offer a COVID-19 vaccine series to individuals who identify themselves as meeting at least one of the criteria above.</li> <li>• Consult the physician on timing of immunization (initiation and interval) based on the individual's treatment and unique circumstances. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Immunize individuals who are immunocompromised at a time when the individual is most likely to mount an immune response.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	
<b>Underlying medical conditions that would allow individuals to access provincially funded LP.8.1 COVID-19 vaccine</b>	<p>Individuals with the following underlying medical conditions are eligible for COVID-19 vaccine that is provincially funded and should follow the schedule outlined for healthy immunocompetent individuals:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cancer (currently receiving treatment)</li> <li>• Cerebrovascular disease</li> <li>• Chronic kidney disease and not on peritoneal dialysis or hemodialysis</li> <li>• Chronic liver diseases</li> <li>• Chronic lung diseases</li> <li>• Cystic fibrosis</li> <li>• Diabetes mellitus</li> <li>• Disabilities such as Down syndrome; learning, intellectual, or developmental disabilities; ADHD; cerebral palsy; congenital disabilities; spinal cord injuries</li> <li>• Heart conditions such as cardiomyopathies, coronary artery disease, heart failure</li> <li>• HIV infection</li> <li>• Mental health disorders (limited to: mood disorders, including depression, schizophrenia spectrum disorders)</li> <li>• Obesity</li> <li>• Pregnancy</li> <li>• Tuberculosis</li> <li>• Primary immunodeficiency diseases that are not mentioned above</li> <li>• Use of corticosteroids or other immunosuppressive medications that are not mentioned above.</li> </ul>	
<b>Interval between previous COVID-19 infection and COVID-19 immunization</b>	<p>Individuals who have had a recent COVID-19 infection may receive COVID-19 vaccine after acute symptoms of COVID-19 have resolved and they are no longer infectious.</p> <p><b>Note:</b> The exception is a history of multisystem inflammatory syndrome in children or adults (MIS-C or MIS-A).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Individuals with a history of MIS-C or MIS-A, regardless of immunocompromised status, should receive the vaccine when clinical recovery has been achieved or at least 90 days since the onset of MIS-C or MIS-A, whichever is longer.</li> </ul>	
<b>Contraindications/Precautions</b>	<p><b>Contraindications</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Known severe hypersensitivity to any component of the vaccine.</li> <li>• Two non-medicinal ingredients in the vaccine that have been associated with allergic reactions in other products include:</li> </ul>	

	Moderna Spikevax Vaccine	Pfizer-BioNTech Comirnaty Vaccine
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Polyethylene glycol (PEG) is a potential allergen that may be found in bowel preparation products for colonoscopy, laxatives, cough syrup, cosmetics, contact lens care solutions, skin products and some food and drinks.</li> <li>○ Tromethamine (trometamol or Tris) is a component found in contrast media, oral and parenteral medications.</li> <li>● Anaphylaxis to a previous dose of COVID-19 mRNA vaccine may not be an absolute contraindication. See <a href="#">COVID-19 Immunization for Individuals with Allergies and Other Health Conditions</a> for recommendations.</li> </ul> <p><b>Precautions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● The safety and effectiveness of Moderna Spikevax and Pfizer-BioNTech is inferred from studies and based on safety data from clinical trials which evaluated primary and booster immunization and post marketing safety data. Safety data accrued are relevant to the subsequent variant updated vaccines because these vaccines are manufactured using the same process.</li> <li>● There are no known serious warnings or precautions associated with this product at the time of authorization.</li> <li>● Individuals who have had a serious allergic reaction to another vaccine, drug or food should talk to their healthcare provider before receiving the vaccine.</li> <li>● Individuals receiving anticoagulant therapy or those with a bleeding disorder that would contraindicate intramuscular injection should not be given the vaccine unless the potential benefit clearly outweighs the risk of administration.</li> <li>● Postpone administration in individuals suffering from acute severe febrile illness.</li> </ul>	
<b>Myocarditis/Pericarditis</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Very rare cases of myocarditis and/or pericarditis following immunization with COVID-19 vaccines have been reported during post-authorization use. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Compared to the original monovalent primary series, the risk of myocarditis and/or pericarditis is now expected to be lower due to the use of a 1-dose schedule in most individuals.</li> <li>○ Current data do not show a product-specific difference in the risks of myocarditis and/or pericarditis after a booster dose of an mRNA COVID-19 vaccine.</li> </ul> </li> <li>● Inform individuals receiving an mRNA COVID-19 vaccine of the risk of myocarditis and pericarditis. Advise them to seek medical attention if they develop related symptoms including shortness of breath, chest pain, or the feeling of a rapid or abnormal heart rhythm.</li> <li>● Deferral of COVID-19 immunization is generally not required for those with a prior history of myocarditis or pericarditis that is unrelated to COVID-19 mRNA vaccines. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ If these individuals have questions or concerns about their prior history of myocarditis or pericarditis and immunization, it is recommended they consult with their clinician. However, consultation with a clinician is not required to receive COVID-19 vaccines.</li> </ul> </li> <li>● Defer further doses of mRNA COVID-19 vaccines in most circumstances, for individuals who experienced myocarditis and/or pericarditis within 6 weeks of receiving a previous dose of an mRNA COVID-19 vaccine. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Individuals with confirmed myocarditis or pericarditis with abnormal cardiac investigation may choose to receive another dose of vaccine after discussing the risks and benefits with their clinician.</li> <li>○ Individuals with a history compatible with pericarditis within 6 weeks of receiving a dose of an mRNA COVID-19 vaccine, who either had no cardiac workup or who</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	

	Moderna Spikevax Vaccine	Pfizer-BioNTech Comirnaty Vaccine
	<p>had normal cardiac investigations, can be re-immunized when they are symptom free and at least 90 days have passed since previous immunization</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Obtain informed consent by discussing the low risk of recurrence of myocarditis and/or pericarditis following additional doses of COVID-19 vaccine in individuals with a history of confirmed myocarditis and/or pericarditis after a previous dose of mRNA COVID-19 vaccine.</li> </ul>	
<b>Possible Reactions</b>	<p><b>Common</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pain, swelling/induration, erythema at the injection site</li> <li>• Axillary swelling/tenderness</li> <li>• Fatigue</li> <li>• Headache, chills, fever</li> <li>• Myalgia, arthralgia</li> <li>• Diarrhea, nausea, vomiting, loss of appetite</li> <li>• Irritability, crying</li> <li>• Hypoaesthesia (decreased sense of touch or sensation)</li> <li>• Paraesthesia (tingling, itching or pricking sensation)</li> </ul> <p><b>Uncommon</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lymphadenopathy</li> <li>• Asthenia</li> <li>• Hyperhidrosis, night sweats</li> </ul> <p><b>Rare</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Allergic reaction</li> <li>• Anaphylaxis</li> <li>• Erythema multiforme</li> <li>• Myocarditis/Pericarditis</li> <li>• Facial paralysis/Bell's palsy</li> </ul> <p>Unexpected or unusual side effects can occur. Refer to the product monograph for more detailed information.</p>	
<b>Pregnancy</b>	<p>May use during pregnancy.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Offer vaccine to pregnant individuals at any time during pregnancy due to the increased risk that infection poses in pregnancy.</li> <li>• The safety and efficacy of LP.8.1 COVID-19 vaccine in pregnant women has not yet been established. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ An mRNA vaccine is preferred due to reassuring published data on the safety of these vaccines in pregnancy.</li> <li>○ Data available on the original mRNA vaccines administered in pregnancy did not detect safety signals from post-marketing surveillance. COVID-19 mRNA vaccines can be offered to pregnant individuals as they are more at risk for severe illness from COVID-19 compared with non-pregnant individuals.</li> <li>○ Evidence to date shows that COVID-19 immunization during pregnancy is safe and does not increase risk for miscarriage, stillbirth, low birth weight, preterm birth, NICU admission, or other adverse pregnancy/birth outcomes.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• It is recommended that individuals consult their primary health care provider or obstetrician for any vaccine related questions or concerns.</li> <li>• Consultation with a primary health care provider or obstetrician is not required to receive COVID-19 vaccine.</li> </ul> <p><b>Additional resources</b></p>	

	Moderna Spikevax Vaccine	Pfizer-BioNTech Comirnaty Vaccine
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Society of Obstetricians and Gynecologists of Canada Statement on COVID-19 Immunization in Pregnancy</a></li> </ul>	
<b>Lactation</b>	<p>May use for individuals who are lactating and feeding their milk to infants and children.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It is unknown whether this vaccine is excreted in human milk. A risk to the newborns/infants cannot be excluded.</li> <li>• Recent reports have shown that breastfeeding individuals who have received mRNA COVID-19 vaccines have antibodies in their breastmilk, which could help protect their babies. More data is needed to determine the level of protection these antibodies might provide for the baby.</li> <li>• It is recommended that individuals consult their primary health care provider or medical specialist for any vaccine related questions or concerns.</li> <li>• Consultations with a primary health care provider or medical specialist is not required to received COVID-19 vaccine.</li> </ul>	
<b>Composition</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Each 0.25 ml dose of Spikevax contains 25 micrograms of mRNA encoding SARS-CoV-2 spike protein. The mRNA encoding spike protein is derived from the omicron variant LP.8.1.</li> <li>• Each 0.5 ml dose of Spikevax contains 50 micrograms of mRNA encoding SARS-CoV-2 spike protein. The mRNA encoding spike protein is derived from the omicron variant LP.8.1.</li> <li>• Non-medicinal ingredients: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Acetic acid</li> <li>○ Cholesterol</li> <li>○ SM-102 (Heptadecan-9-yl 8-((2hydroxyethyl) (6-oxo-6-(undecyloxy) hexyl) amino) octanoate)</li> <li>○ PEG2000-DMG (1,2-dimyristoyl-racglycero-3-methoxypolyethylene glycol2000)</li> <li>○ Sodium acetate trihydrate</li> <li>○ DSPC (1,2-distearoyl-sn-glycero-3-phosphocholine)</li> <li>○ Sucrose</li> <li>○ Trometamol</li> <li>○ tromethamine hydrochloride</li> <li>○ water for injection.</li> <li>○ Does not contain any preservatives.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Each 0.3 ml dose of Comirnaty contains 30 mcg of mRNA encoding the viral spike (S) glycoprotein of SARS-CoV-2. The mRNA encoding spike protein is derived from Omicron variant LP.8.1.</li> <li>• Non-medicinal ingredients: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ ALC-0315 = ((4-hydroxybutyl) azanediyl)bis (hexane-6,1-diyl)bis(2hexyldecanoate)</li> <li>○ ALC-0159 = 2-[(polyethylene glycol)2000]-N,N-ditetradecylacetamide</li> <li>○ cholesterol</li> <li>○ DSPC = 1,2-distearoyl-sn-glycero-3phosphocholine</li> <li>○ sodium chloride</li> <li>○ sucrose</li> <li>○ tromethamine</li> <li>○ tromethamine hydrochloride</li> <li>○ water for injection</li> <li>○ Does not contain any preservatives</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>Blood/Blood Products</b>	Does not contain blood/blood products.	
<b>Bovine/Porcine Products</b>	Does not contain bovine/porcine products.	
<b>Latex</b>	Does not contain latex.	

	Moderna Spikevax Vaccine	Pfizer-BioNTech Comirnaty Vaccine
<b>Administration with Other Products</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>COVID-19 vaccines may be given at the same time as other non-live and live vaccines, tuberculin skin tests or IGRA (QFT) tests.</li> <li>TST and COVID-19 vaccines: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>There is no current data on the impact of the COVID-19 mRNA vaccines on tuberculin skin testing or IGRA (QFT) test results. There is a theoretical risk that COVID-19 vaccines may temporarily affect cell-mediated immunity, resulting in false-negative tuberculin skin testing or IGRA (QFT) test results.</li> <li>In the absence of data and acknowledging the importance of both timely tuberculosis testing and immunization, COVID-19 vaccines may be given at the same time, before, or after the TST or IGRA test.</li> <li>Re-testing (at least 28 days after a dose of COVID-19 vaccine) of individuals with negative TST or IGRA results for whom there is high suspicion of latent tuberculosis may be prudent in order to avoid missing cases due to potentially false-negative results. Consult with TB services.</li> </ul> </li> <li>Do not defer COVID-19 immunization in individuals who have received anti-SARS-CoV-2 monoclonal antibodies or convalescent plasma provided for treatment or prophylaxis of COVID-19.</li> </ul> <p><b>Note:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Consult the primary health care provider or medical specialist on a case-by-case basis about the spacing and timing of administration of COVID-19 vaccine. The potential interference between COVID-19 vaccine and monoclonal products not used for treatment or prophylaxis of COVID-19 infection are currently unknown.</li> <li>Give mRNA COVID-19 vaccines any time before or after an immunoglobulin preparation (including Rhlg) or blood product.</li> </ul>	
<b>Additional Preparation Instructions</b>	<p><b>Multi-dose vials</b></p> <p>Multi-dose vials are supplied as a frozen dispersion and do not contain preservatives.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Thaw vaccine before use.</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>From the freezer to room temperature (between +15°C to +25°C): Thaw for 45 minutes from frozen state.</li> <li>From the freezer to a vaccine fridge (+2°C to +8°C): Thaw for 2 hours from the frozen state.</li> </ul> </li> <li>Do not reconstitute, dilute or mix with other medicinal products.</li> <li>Swirl the vial gently after thawing and between each withdrawal.</li> <li>Do <b>not</b> shake vial.</li> </ul> <p><b>Pre-filled syringe</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Individual syringe</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Thaw time at +2° to +8°C is 1 hour and 40 minutes.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p><b>Pre-filled syringe</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Prior to use, the pre-filled syringes can be stored for up to 12 hours at temperatures between +8°C to +25°C and can be handled in room light conditions.</li> <li>Discard the pre-filled syringe if it has been frozen.</li> <li>Do not shake</li> <li>Remove the tip cap slowly turning the cap counterclockwise while holding the luer lock.</li> <li>Attach a needle appropriate for intramuscular injection and administer the entire volume.</li> </ul>

	Moderna Spikevax Vaccine	Pfizer-BioNTech Comirnaty Vaccine
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Thaw time at room temperature (+15° to +25°C) is 40 minutes.</li> <li>● <b>Carton of 10 syringes</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Thaw time at +2° to +8°C is 2 hours and 40 minutes.</li> <li>○ Thaw time at room temperature (+15° to +25°C) is 1 hour and 20 minutes.</li> </ul> </li> <li>● Do not shake syringe.</li> </ul>	
<b>Appearance</b>	The liquid is white to off-white dispersion. It may contain white or translucent product-related particulates.	The liquid is a clear to slightly opalescent suspension and may contain white to off-white opaque amorphous particles.
<b>Storage</b>	<p><b>Multi-dose vials</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Store in freezer between -50°C to -15°C.</li> <li>● Protect from light until thawed.</li> <li>● Do not refreeze after thawing.</li> </ul> <p><b>Thawed, unpunctured vials</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Store between +2°C to +8°C for up to 50 days prior to first use.</li> <li>● Store between +8°C to +25°C for up to 12 hours. Discard after 12 hours.</li> </ul> <p><b>Thawed, punctured vials</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Store at +2°C to +8°C for 24 hours. Discard after 24 hours.</li> <li>● Stored at +8°C to +25°C for 12 hours. Discard after 12 hours.</li> </ul> <p><b>Pre-filled syringe</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Store between -50°C to -15°C. Store in the original carton to protect from light.</li> <li>● Syringes can be stored refrigerated between +2° to +8°C for up to 50 days prior to first use.</li> <li>● Store pre-filled syringes between +8°C to +25°C for up to 12 hours after removal from refrigerated conditions. Discard thawed pre-filled syringe if not used within this time.</li> <li>● <b>Do not</b> return syringes to the refrigerator after being thawed at room temperature</li> <li>● Do not refreeze once thawed.</li> </ul> <p><b>General Considerations</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Do not use vaccine after the expiration date printed on the</li> </ul>	<p><b>Pre-filled syringe</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Store as a refrigerated suspension and <b>do not freeze.</b></li> <li>● Store between +2°C to +8°C until the expiration date printed on the carton and syringe label.</li> <li>● Pre-filled syringes may be transported between +2°C to +8°C.</li> <li>● Minimize exposure to room light and avoid exposure to direct sunlight and ultraviolet light.</li> <li>● Pre-filled syringes can be handled in room light conditions.</li> <li>● Do not use vaccine after the expiration date printed on the syringes and cartons regardless of storage condition.</li> </ul>

	Moderna Spikevax Vaccine	Pfizer-BioNTech Comirnaty Vaccine
	<p>vials/syringes and cartons regardless of storage condition.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Do not refreeze once thawed.</li> <li>Store in the original carton to protect from light.</li> <li>Thawed vials and pre-filled syringes can be handled in room light conditions.</li> </ul>	
<b>Packaging</b>	<p><b>6 months to 11 years</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Multi-dose vial: 10 pediatric doses per vial</li> <li>Low dead-volume syringes and/or needles can be used to extract 10 doses from a single vial. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>If standard syringes and needles are used, there may not be sufficient volume to extract a 10<sup>th</sup> dose from a single vial.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><b>12 years and older</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pre-filled syringe: 10 doses per package.</li> </ul>	<p><b>12 years and older</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pre-filled syringe: 10 doses per package.</li> </ul>
<b>Vaccine Codes</b>	COVMODmRNALP	COVPBmRNALP
<b>Antigen Code</b>	COVID-19	
<b>Licensed for</b>	Individuals 6 months of age and older, at least 6 months from previous COVID-19 vaccine dose.	Individuals 12 years of age and older, at least 3 to 6 months from previous COVID-19 vaccine dose.
<b>Off-license use</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>An interval of less than 6 months from previous COVID-19 vaccine dose.</li> <li>An interval of less than 4 months from previous COVID-19 vaccine dose for immunocompromised individuals who previously completed a COVID-19 vaccine series.</li> <li>Three-dose series for individuals who are moderately to severely immunocompromised.</li> <li>Additional dose of LP.8.1 COVID-19 vaccine for eligible individuals who are at an increased risk of severe illness from COVID-19 infection.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Three-dose series for individuals who are moderately to severely immunocompromised.</li> <li>Additional dose of LP.8.1 COVID-19 vaccine for eligible individuals who are at an increased risk of severe illness from COVID-19 infection.</li> </ul>
<b>Program Notes</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2024 September 24: Licensed for use in Canada.</li> <li>2024 October: Implemented in Alberta.</li> <li>2025 March 14: Indications for an additional (biannual) COVID-19 KP.2 vaccine dose for eligible individuals as of April 28, 2025.</li> <li>2025 August 19: Pfizer BioNTech LP.8.1 COVID-19 vaccine licensed for use in Canada.</li> <li>2025 August 22: Moderna Spikevax LP.8.1 COVID-19 vaccine licensed for use in Canada.</li> </ul>	

	Moderna Spikevax Vaccine	Pfizer-BioNTech Comirnaty Vaccine
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2025 October 1: Implemented in Alberta.</li> <li>• 2025 October 29: Teachers added to indications.</li> <li>• 2025 December 1: Updated to clarify COVID-19 vaccine eligibility language and addition of teachers.</li> <li>• 2025 December 22: Removal of pediatric block booking guidelines to ensure timely access to COVID-19 vaccine due to decreased demand.</li> <li>• 2026 March 2: Indications for an additional (biannual) COVID-19 LP.8.1 vaccine dose for eligible individuals as of April 7, 2026.</li> </ul>	
<b>Related Resources</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Health Professional Immunization Information COVID-19 website</li> <li>• COVID-19 mRNA Vaccine Information Sheet (105240)</li> </ul>	
<b>References</b>		
<p>BioNTech Manufacturing GmbH. Comirnaty Omicron LP.8.1 Product Monograph, (2025). Available from: <a href="https://covid-vaccine.canada.ca/info/pdf/comirnaty-kp2-pm-en.pdf">https://covid-vaccine.canada.ca/info/pdf/comirnaty-kp2-pm-en.pdf</a>.</p> <p>Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. COVID-19 vaccination for women who are pregnant or breastfeeding. COVID-19. 2024. Available from: <a href="#">COVID-19 Vaccination for People Who Are Pregnant or Breastfeeding   COVID-19   CDC</a>.</p> <p>Moderna Biopharma Canada Corp. SPIKEVAX LP.8.1 [Internet] Product Monograph, (2025). Available from: <a href="https://pdf.hres.ca/dpd_pm/00081474.PDF">https://pdf.hres.ca/dpd_pm/00081474.PDF</a></p> <p>National Advisory Committee on Immunization. <i>Guidance on the use of COVID-19 vaccines during for 2025 to summer 2026</i>. Public Health Agency of Canada.</p> <p>Primary and Preventative Health Services. (2024 September). Alberta Vaccine Storage and Handling for COVID-19 Vaccine. In <i>Alberta Immunization Policy: Cold chain storage and handling</i>. Government of Alberta.</p> <p>Primary and Preventative Health Services. (2026 March 2). COVID-19 Vaccine -mRNA Moderna Spikevax mRNA and Pfizer-BioNTech Comirnaty LP.8.1. In <i>Alberta Immunization Policy: Biological Products</i>. Government of Alberta.</p> <p>Public Health Agency of Canada. (2025). <i>Canadian Immunization Guide</i>. Government of Canada.</p> <p>Public Health Agency of Canada. (2022, June 1). COVID-19 signs, symptoms and severity of disease: A clinician guide. In <i>Canadian Immunization Guide</i>. Government of Canada.</p>		