



Primary Care
Alberta

Communicable Disease Control – Public Health, CDC & Screening

COVID-19 XFG Immunization Program 2026-2027





Objectives

1. Upon completion of this presentation the learner will understand the clinical information for COVID-19 XFG vaccines.
 - Operational questions will NOT be addressed during this presentation (e.g., vaccine distribution specifics).
 - Always use the online resources for the most up to date information.



Resource List

[Influenza Immunization Information for Health Professionals](#) website

COVID-19 Health Professional Immunization Information:

[Insite](#) for employees of health care pillars in Alberta

[External](#) site for other health care professionals

[Respiratory Syncytial Virus \(RSV\) Immunization Information for Health Professionals](#) website

Immunization Program Standards Manual (IPSM) Vaccine Biological pages:

[Insite](#) for employees of health care pillars in Alberta

[External](#) site for other health care professionals

[Alberta immunization policy \(AIP\)](#)

Alberta immunization policy: [Alberta Outreach Immunization Program](#)

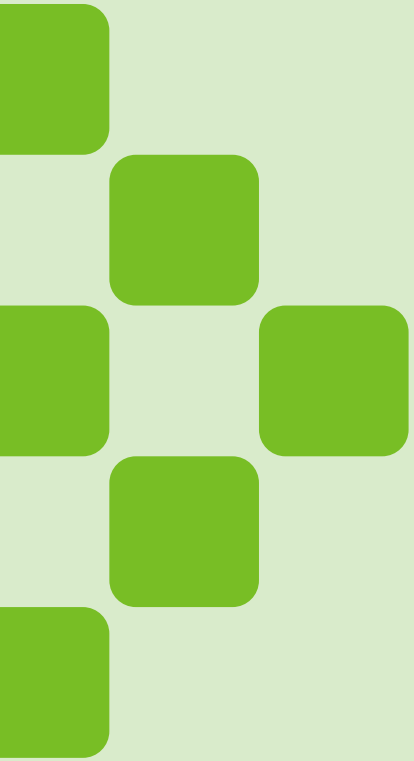
Vaccine Product Monographs

[Vaccine Storage and Handling Standard](#) and e-learning module

[Adverse Events Following Immunization \(AEFI\) Policy](#)

Vaccine Administration Orientation PowerPoint

Site specific reporting requirements and data collection guidelines



COVID-19 Disease Background



Burden of COVID-19 Disease



COVID-19 is a respiratory infection caused by SARS-CoV-2 and can cause mild to severe illness, including hospitalization and death. Young infants, older adults, and those with chronic health conditions are at higher risk for serious illness.



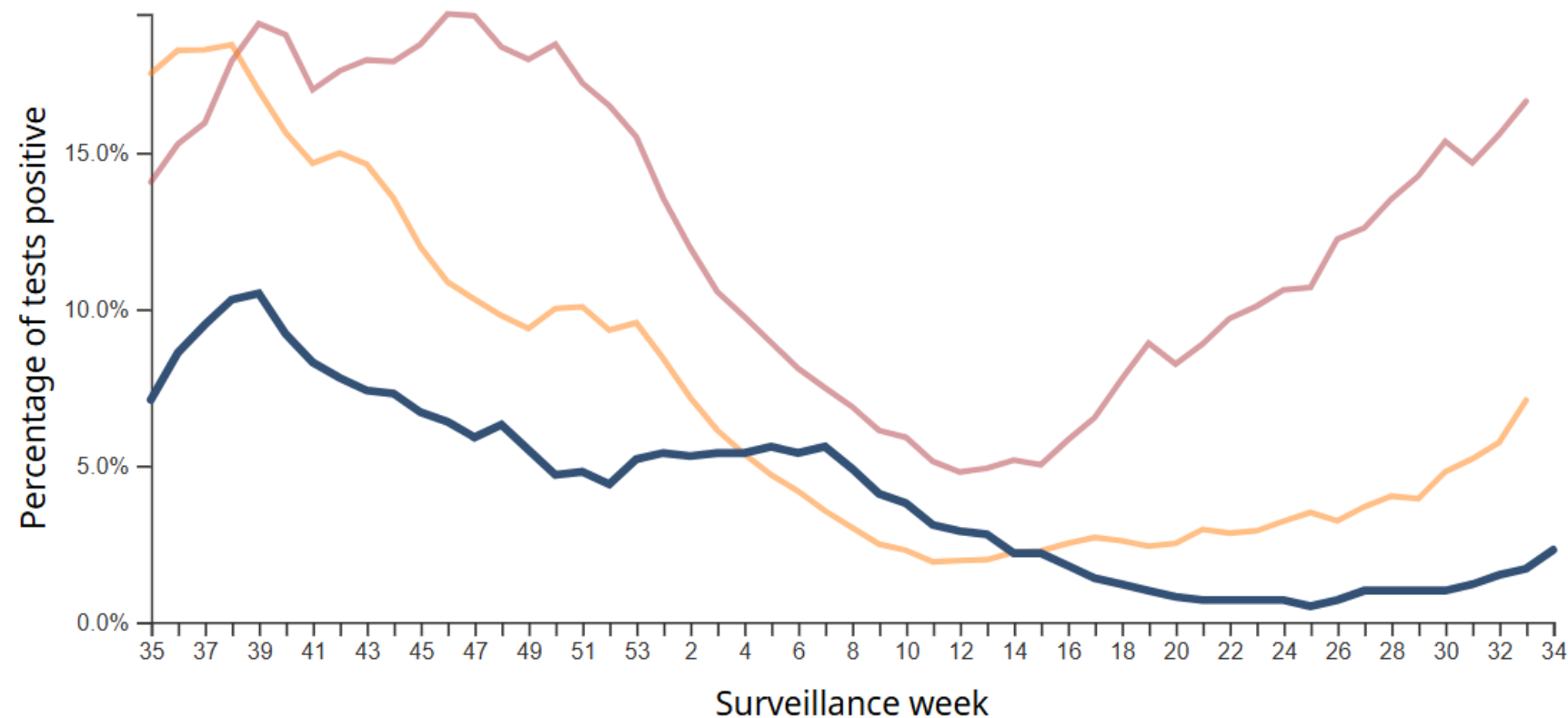
Antigenic changes result in ongoing assessments of the circulating strain(s) selected for the development of COVID-19 vaccines internationally.



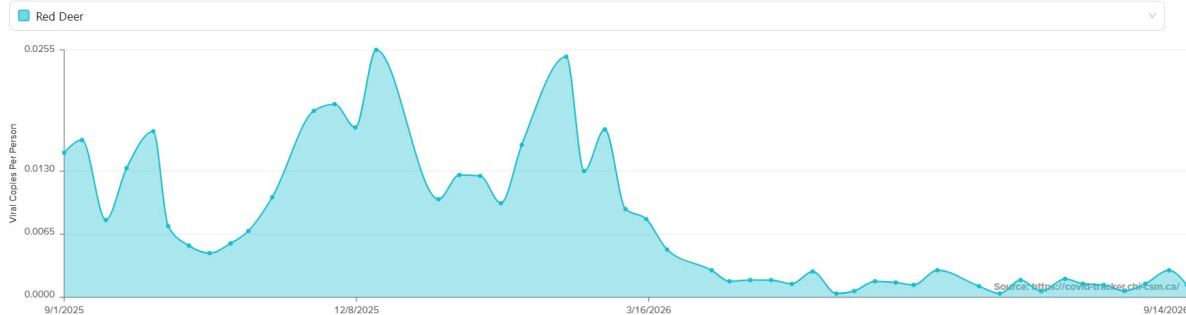
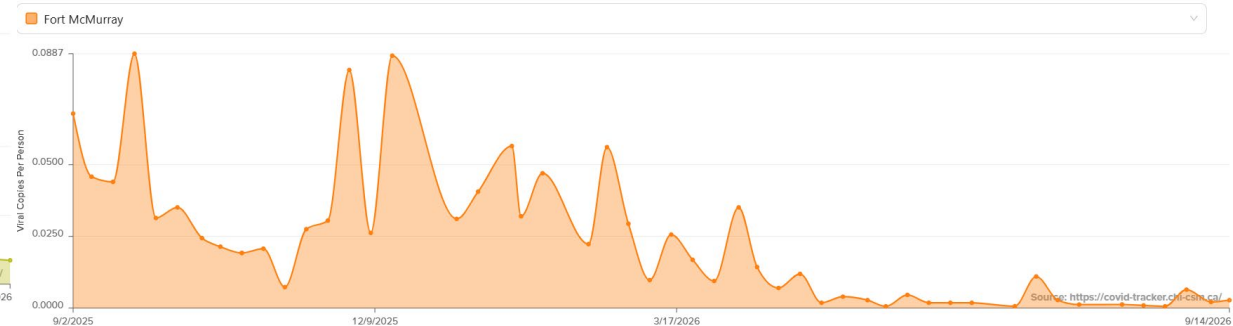
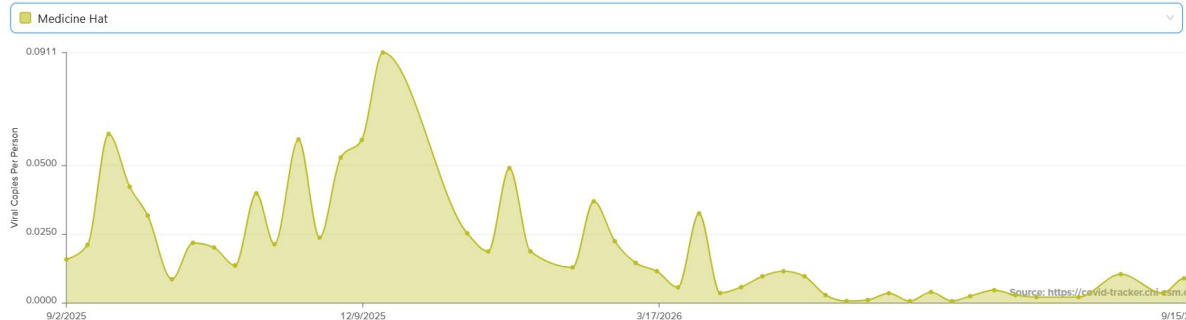
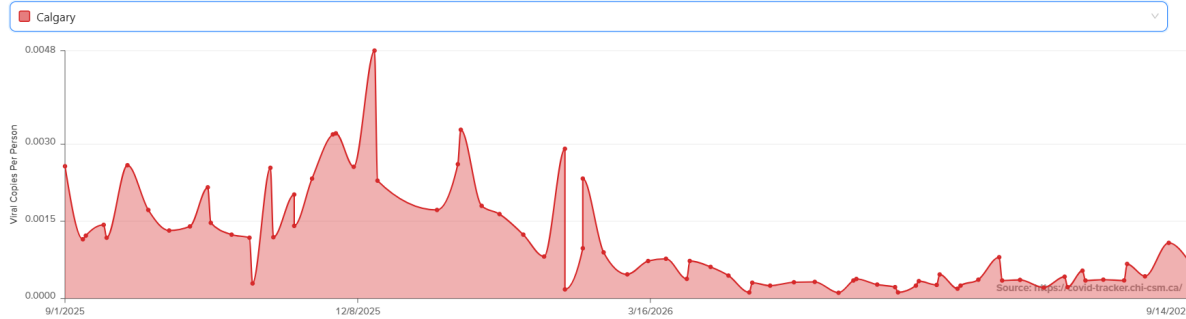
Burden of COVID-19 Disease

Figure 3: Percentage of tests positive for COVID-19 in Canada for surveillance period 2025-2026 compared to previous periods

Select seasons **2025-2026** 2024-2025 2023-2024 2022-2023 [Select all](#)



COVID-19 in Wastewater Samples

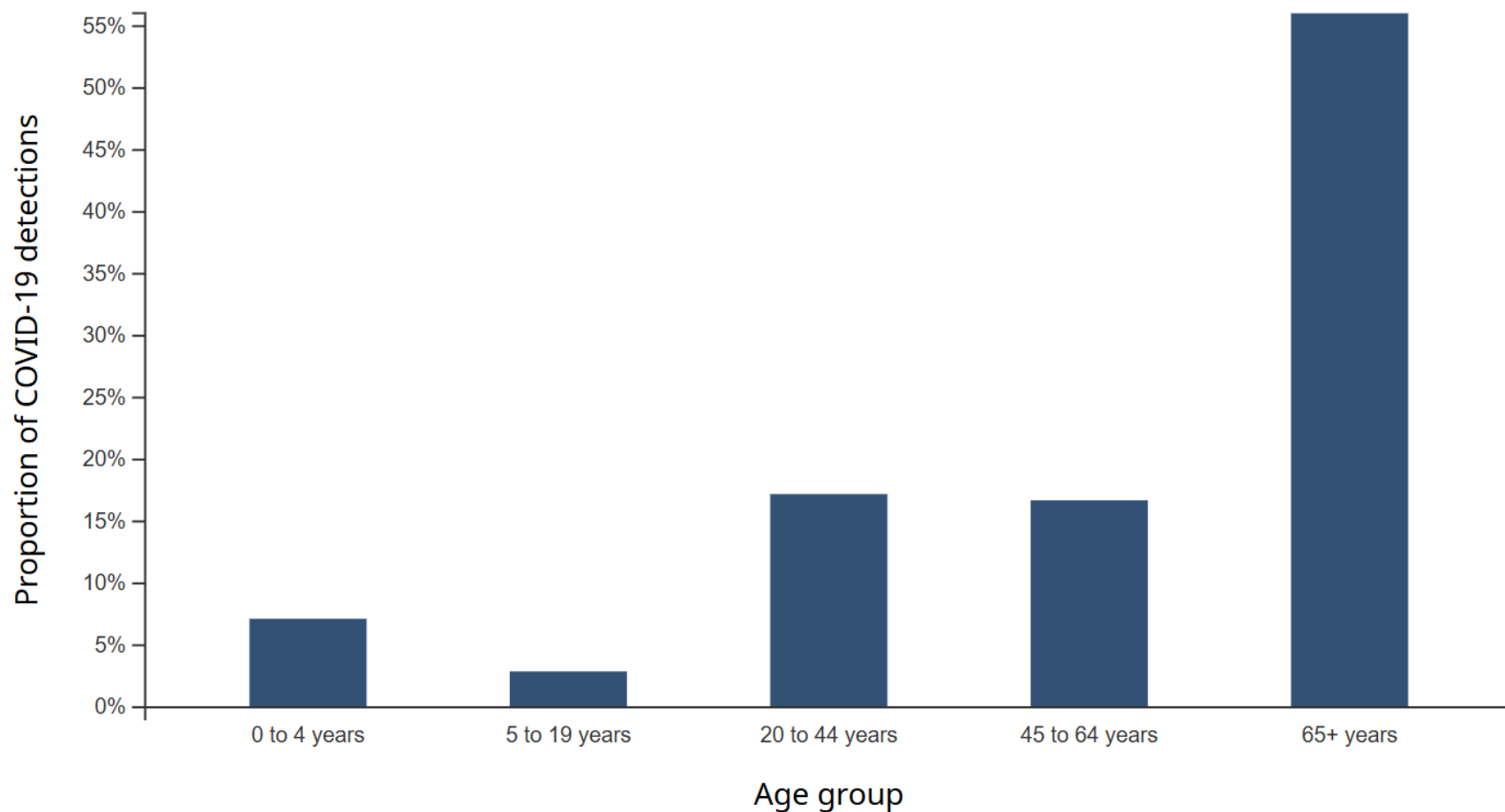


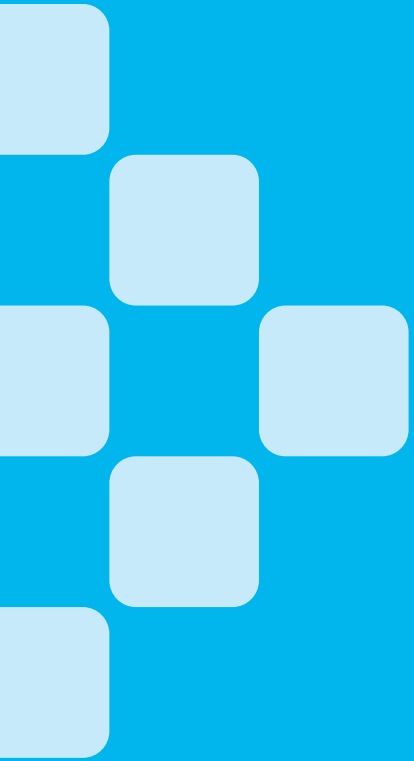
COVID Tracker website:
<https://covid-tracker.chi-csm.ca>



Burden of COVID-19 Disease

Figure 5: Proportion of reported COVID-19 detections in Canada by age group, 2025-2026 surveillance period





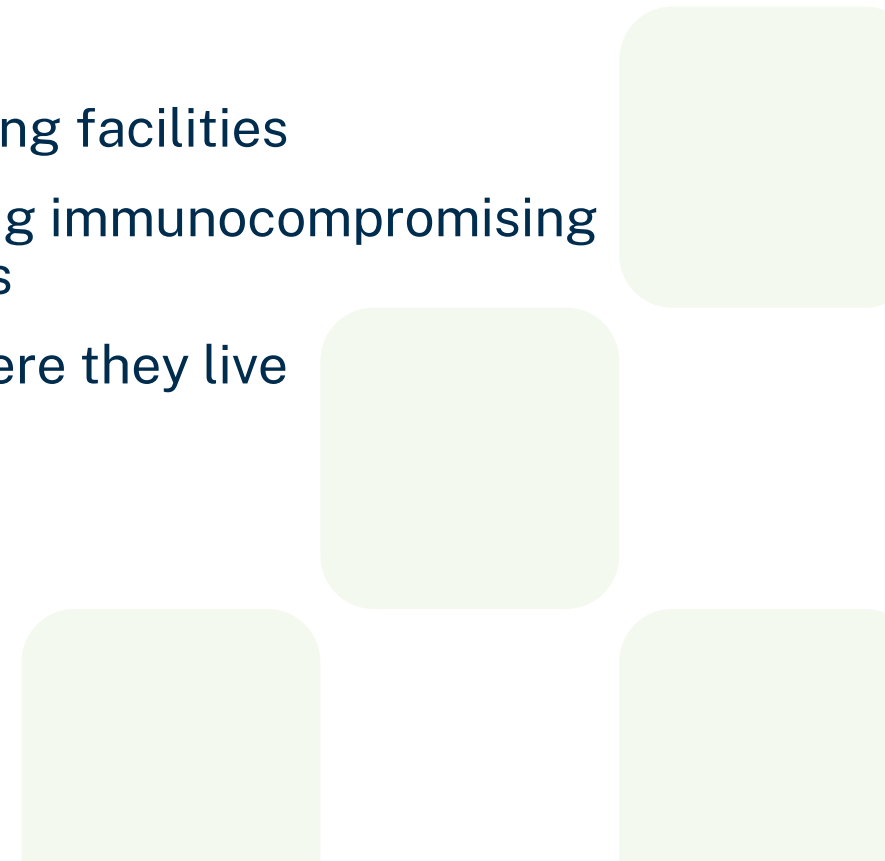
COVID-19 Immunization Program



2026-2027 Eligibility for Provincially Funded COVID-19 Vaccine

COVID-19 vaccine will be available to the following individuals:

- All adults 65 years of age and older
- All children 6 months of age and older who are:
 - Residents of continuing care and seniors supportive living facilities
 - Individuals with underlying medical conditions, including immunocompromising conditions and individuals experiencing homelessness
 - First Nations, Metis, and Inuit individuals, no matter where they live
 - Eligible healthcare workers
 - Teachers as eligible under the [Back to School Act](#)





Healthcare Worker Eligibility

Eligible healthcare workers include:

- Individuals actively registered with one of our colleges
- Union Members (for example, UNA, HSAA, AUNP, AUPE, CUPE) as well as individuals who work in patient-facing settings such as:
 - Hospital staff (including students in health disciplines, contract workers and volunteers)
 - Staff in community health settings (e.g. clinical labs, home care, shelters)
 - Medical first responders
 - Staff in congregate care facilities
 - Disability support workers and staff working in recovery settings
 - Health care aides on the provincial registry
 - Students training in facilities such as hospitals, clinics, pharmacies, and congregate care facilities



See PPHS website for further information
<https://www.alberta.ca/coronavirus-info-for-albertans>



Moderate to Severe Immunocompromising Conditions

Specific immunocompromising conditions that make individuals 6 months of age and older eligible for provincially funded COVID-19 vaccine:

- Solid organ transplant (SOT) recipients – pre-transplant and post-transplant.
 - [Immunization for Children Expecting Solid Organ Transplant Before 18 Months of Age](#)
 - [Immunization for Children Expecting Solid Organ Transplant After 18 Months of Age](#)
 - [Immunization for Adult Solid Organ Transplant \(SOT\) Candidates and Recipients](#)
- Hematopoietic stem cell transplant (HSCT) recipients – pre-transplant and post-transplant while in an immunosuppressed state and individuals receiving Chimeric Antigen Receptor (CAR) T-Cell therapy:
 - [Standard for Immunization of Transplant Candidates and Recipients](#)
 - [Immunization for Adult HSCT Transplant Recipients](#)
 - [Immunization for Child HSCT Transplant Recipients](#)



Moderate to Severe Immunocompromising Conditions

- Individuals with malignant hematologic disorders and non-hematologic malignant solid tumors while receiving active treatment. See biological page.
- Individuals with chronic kidney disease on peritoneal dialysis or hemodialysis.
- Individuals on:
 - long term high-dose systemic steroid treatment (prednisone equivalent of equal to or greater than 2 mg/kg/day or 20 mg/day if weight greater than 10 kg, for 14 days or greater), or
 - alkylating agents, or
 - anti-B-cell therapies -including anti-CD19, anti-CD20, anti-CD22 and anti-CD52 monoclonal antibodies (such as rituximab, ocrelizumab, and ofatumumab), or
 - antimetabolites (e.g. methotrexate, azathioprine, mycophenolate), or
 - tumor-necrosis factor (TNF) inhibitors (e.g., adalimumab, certolizumab, etanercept, golimumab, infliximab).



Moderate to Severe Immunocompromising Conditions

- Individuals with HIV infection without viral suppression or those with acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS).
- Individuals with moderate to severe primary immunodeficiency (e.g., DiGeorge syndrome, Wiskott-Aldrich syndrome).

Note:

Individuals who identify themselves as meeting at least one of the criteria above should be offered COVID-19 vaccine. Documentation of immunocompromising conditions is not required.

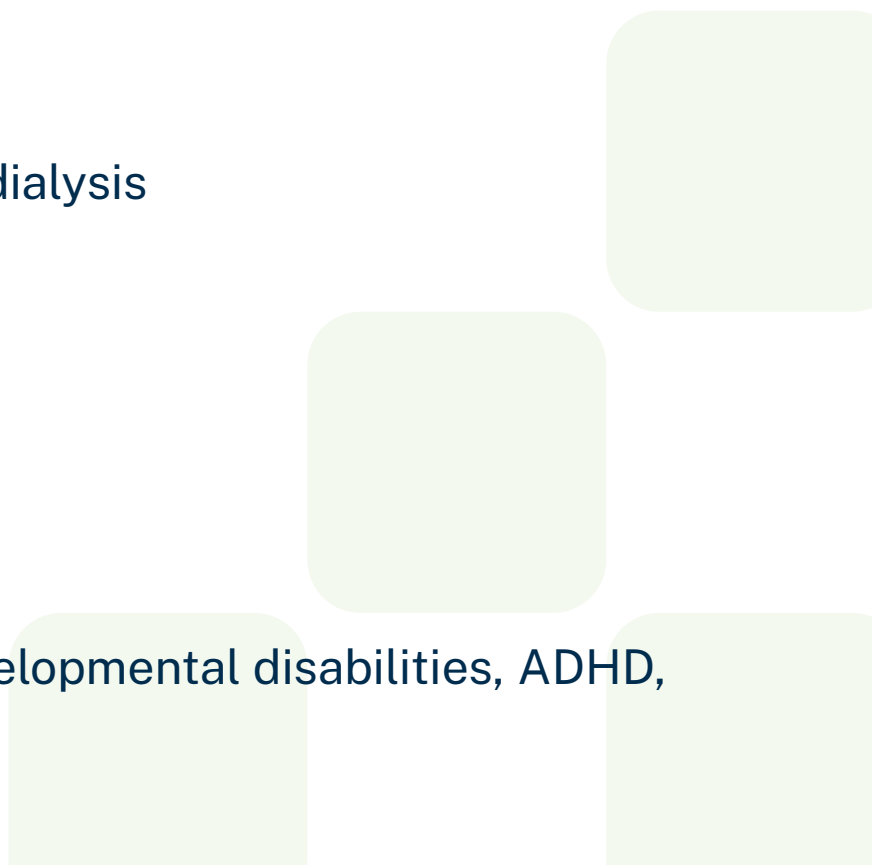
Immunization of immunocompromised individuals should occur at a time when the individual is most likely to mount an immune response. Consult physician as required regarding timing of immunization.



Underlying Medical Conditions and Eligibility for COVID-19 Vaccine

Individuals with the following underlying medical conditions will be eligible for provincially funded COVID-19 vaccine:

- Cancer (currently receiving treatment)
- Cerebrovascular disease
- Chronic kidney disease and not on peritoneal dialysis or hemodialysis
- Chronic liver diseases
- Chronic lung diseases
- Cystic fibrosis
- Diabetes Mellitus
- Disabilities (e.g., Down syndrome, learning, intellectual, or developmental disabilities, ADHD, cerebral palsy, congenital disabilities, spinal cord injuries).





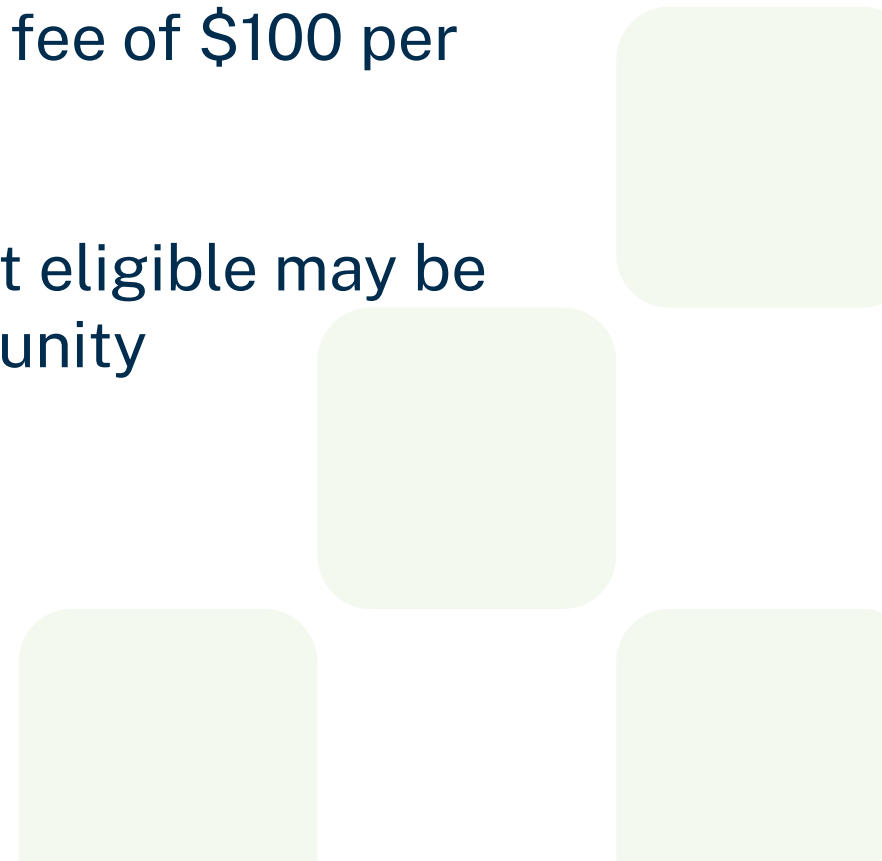
Underlying Medical Conditions and Eligibility for COVID-19 Vaccine

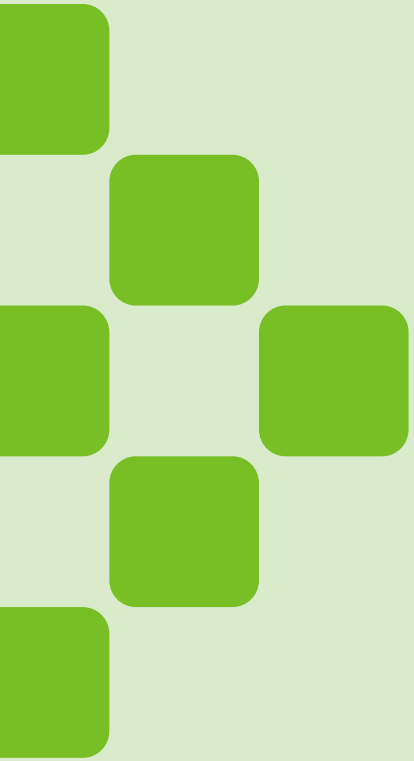
- Heart conditions (e.g., cardiomyopathies, coronary artery disease, heart failure, etc.)
- HIV infection
- Mental health disorders (limited to: mood disorders, including depression, schizophrenia spectrum disorders)
- Obesity
- Pregnancy
- Tuberculosis
- Primary immunodeficiency diseases that are not mentioned above
- Use of corticosteroids or other immunosuppressive medications that are not mentioned above



Individuals who DO NOT meet eligibility criteria for provincially funded COVID-19 vaccine

- Children 6 months to 11 years of age who do not meet the eligibility criteria for COVID-19 vaccine can access the vaccine at **Primary Care Alberta**, with an administrative fee of \$100 per dose/series.
- Individuals 12 years of age and older who are not eligible may be able to access COVID-19 vaccine through community pharmacies at a cost.



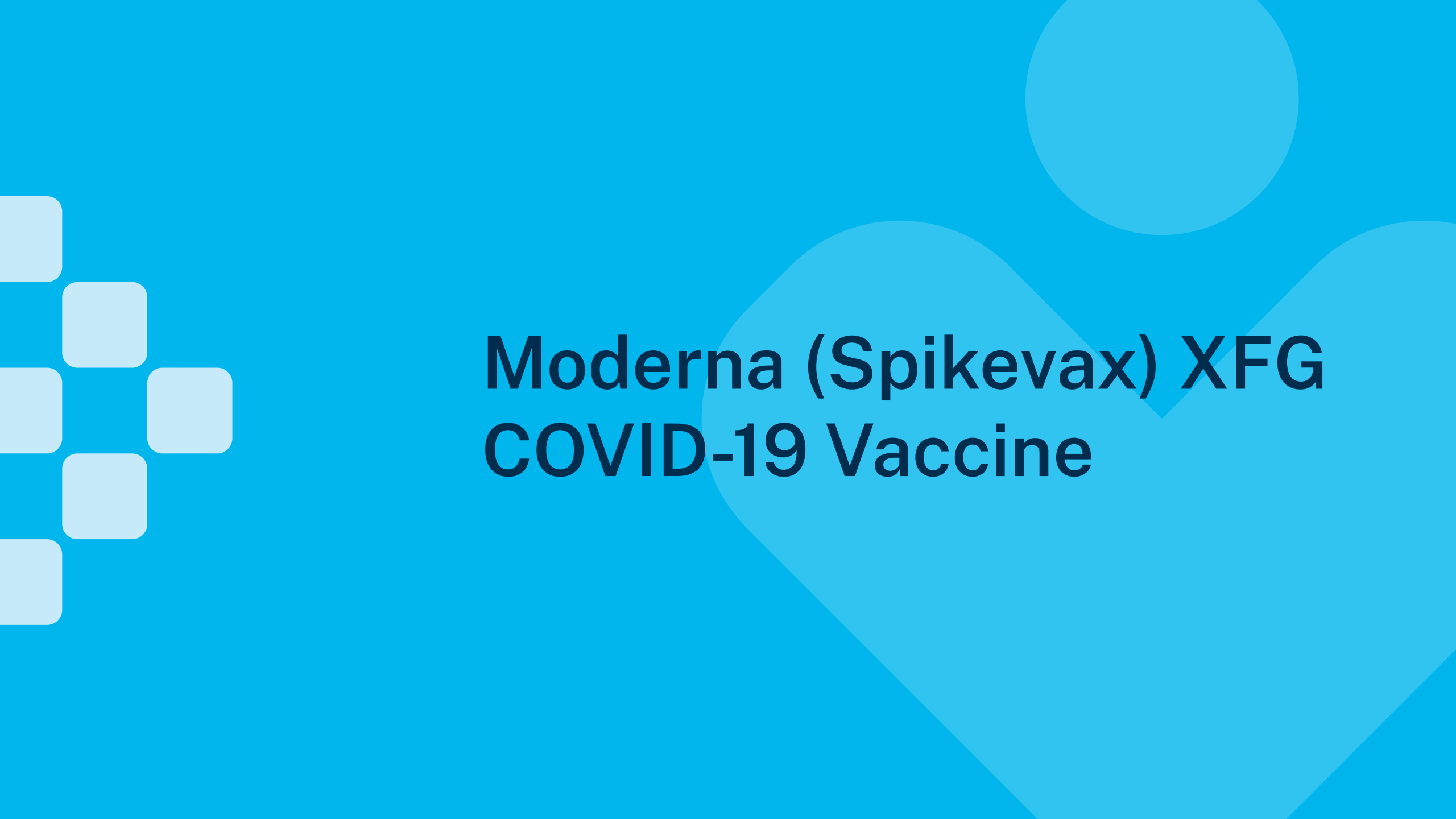


COVID-19 Vaccine Product Information

COVID-19 Vaccines Available in Alberta

- **mRNA**
 - Moderna (Spikevax) XFG Vaccine
 - Pfizer (Comirnaty) XFG Vaccine
- **Recombinant protein, adjuvanted**
 - Novavax (Nuvaxovid) XFG Vaccine





Moderna (Spikevax) XFG COVID-19 Vaccine



Moderna XFG mRNA COVID-19 Vaccine Summary

	Moderna COVID-19 Frozen Vaccine
Dosage/Route	6 months of age to 11 years of age: 0.25 mL (25 mcg) IM (deltoid or vastus lateralis) 12 years of age and older: 0.5 mL (50 mcg) IM (deltoid or vastus lateralis)
Packaging	6 months to 11 years: Multi-dose vial: 10 pediatric doses per vial 12 years and older: Pre-filled syringe: 10 doses per package
Diluent	No
Indication	Albertans 6 months of age and older See biological page for specific information.
Ingredients	• mRNA –nucleoside-modified mRNA (modRNA) platform • formulated in lipid nanoparticles (LNPs) • no adjuvants, preservatives or antibiotics
Schedule	6 months to 4 years of age • Previously unimmunized – 2 doses • Previously immunized (1 or more previous COVID-19 vaccine, regardless of product type) – 1 dose 5 years of age and older • 1 dose, at least three months from previous non-XFG COVID-19 vaccine dose, regardless of the number of doses received in the past.



Schedule for Individuals with Certain Immunocompromising Conditions

Moderna – 6 months of age and older:

Unimmunized/previously received fewer than 3 doses of non-XFG COVID-19 vaccine:

- Immunocompromised individuals should follow the schedule below and receive the appropriate number of COVID-19 vaccine doses to complete a three-dose COVID-19 series. Regardless of whether they have received one or two non-XFG COVID-19 vaccine doses, the previous dose(s) should be counted, and the series should not be restarted.
 - Dose 1: day 0
 - Dose 2: at least 28 days after dose 1
 - Dose 3: 8 weeks after dose 2; however, a minimum interval of 4 weeks may be considered.

Schedule for Individuals with Certain Immunocompromising Conditions

Previously received 3 or more doses of non-XFG COVID-19 vaccine:

- 1 dose, at least 3 months from previous non-XFG COVID-19 vaccine dose, regardless of the number of doses received in the past.

Provide appropriate vaccine and dose for age at time of presentation.





Moderna XFG mRNA COVID-19 Vaccine Reactions

Common	• Pain, redness or swelling at injection site • Chills, fever • Fatigue • Headache, myalgia, arthralgia • Nausea, vomiting • Axillary swelling or tenderness • Dizziness • Hypoaesthesia or paraesthesia • In children under 5 years of age: irritability, crying, sleepiness, loss of appetite, otitis media
Rare	• Allergic reaction • Anaphylaxis • Myocarditis, pericarditis Unexpected or unusual side effects can occur. Refer to the product monograph for more detailed information.



Moderna XFG COVID-19 Vaccine Storage

Multi-dose Vials:

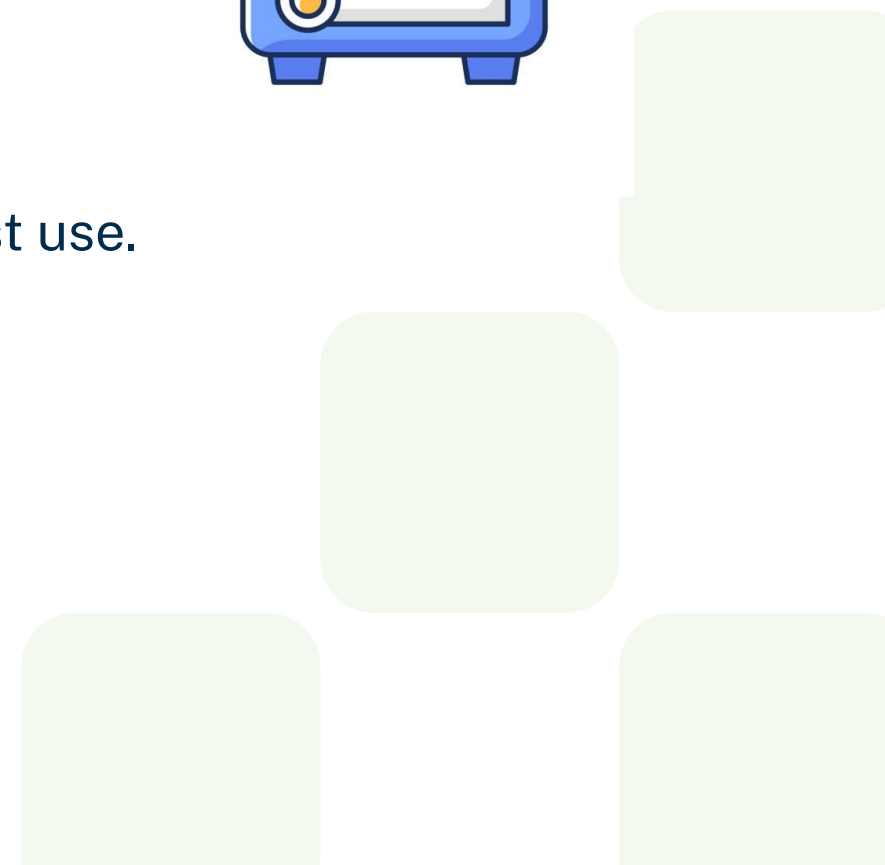
- Store in freezer between -50°C to -15°C .
- Protect from light.
- Do not refreeze after thawing.

Thawed, unpunctured vials:

- Can be stored at $+2^{\circ}\text{C}$ to $+8^{\circ}\text{C}$ for up to **60 days** prior to first use.
- Can be stored at $+8^{\circ}\text{C}$ to $+25^{\circ}\text{C}$ for up to 12 hours.

Thawed, punctured vials:

- Can be stored at $+2^{\circ}\text{C}$ to $+8^{\circ}\text{C}$ for 24 hours.
 - Discard after 24 hours.
- Can be stored at $+8^{\circ}\text{C}$ to $+25^{\circ}\text{C}$ for 12 hours.
 - Discard after 12 hours.





Moderna Vaccine Preparation

Multi-Dose Vials:

Multi-dose vials are supplied as a frozen dispersion, does not contain preservative. Thaw vaccine before use:

- Vaccine can be thawed in two ways:
 - Thaw time when stored between +2°C to +8°C is 2 hours.
 - Thaw time when stored between +15°C to +25°C is 45 minutes.
- Must not be reconstituted, mixed with other medicinal product, or diluted.
- Swirl gently after thawing and before each withdrawal.
- Do not shake vial.
- Pediatric clients should be grouped to minimize vaccine wastage.



Moderna XFG COVID-19 Vaccine Storage

Pre-filled syringes:

- Store in freezer in original carton between -50°C to -15°C.
- Protect from light.
- Do not refreeze after thawing.
- Can be stored between +2°C to +8°C for up to **60 days** prior to first use.
- Can be stored between +8°C to +25°C for up to 12 hours.
- Discard thawed pre-filled syringes if not used within this time.
- Pre-filled syringes should not be returned to the refrigerator after being thawed at room temperature



Moderna Vaccine Preparation

Pre-filled Syringes:

Individual syringe:

- Thaw time when stored between +2°C to +8°C is 1 hour and 40 minutes.
- Thaw time when stored between +15°C to +25°C is 40 minutes.
- Do not shake syringe.

Carton of 10 syringes:

- Thaw time when stored between +2°C to +8°C is 2 hours and 40 minutes.
- Thaw time when stored between +15°C to +25°C is 1 hour and 20 minutes



COVID-19 Vaccine Thaw Expiry Date

Thawed mRNA COVID-19 vaccines have specific post-thaw expiration timelines depending on the manufacturer and storage temperature but must never be used past the original printed expiration date.

Examples of Labels:

MODERNA XFG – Pre-Filled Syringe
Transported thawing/thawed
REVISED THAWED
EXPIRY DATE: _____
LOT#/EXPIRY: _____
DATE/TIME FROM FREEZER: _____

Pediatric
Moderna Peds COVID-19 Multi-Dose Vial
Removed from Freezer Date/Time: _____ @ _____
Thaw EXP Date: _____
Lot _____
Manufacturer EXPIRY DATE: _____
Store between 2°C and 8°C Protect from Light
DO NOT SHAKE

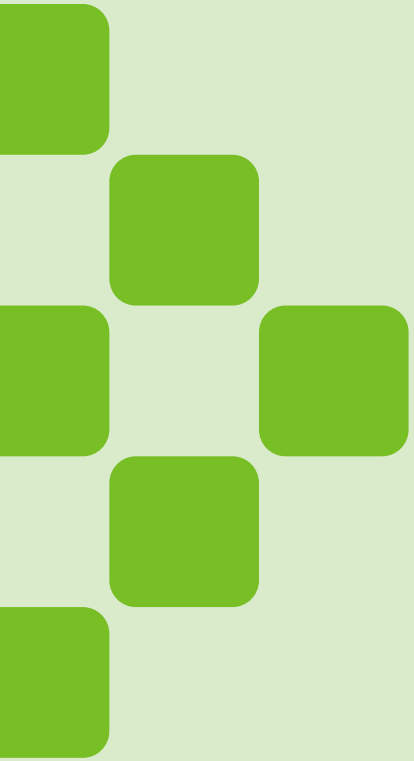
MODERNA PED 6m-11y COVID
Man. Expiry Date: _____
Thaw EXP date (50days): _____
Puncture Date & Time: _____



Moderna Vaccine Transportation

Multi-Dose Vials – Punctured Vials

- Transportation of punctured vials is permitted at +2°C to +8°C.
- However, transport with caution as there is a risk of microbial contamination during transport of punctured vials.
- As much care as possible should be taken to minimize movement/vibration of the punctured vials.
- The time in transit of punctured vials at +2°C to +8°C should be considered part of the 24 hours allowed for storage of punctured vials at refrigerated temperatures.
- [Alberta Vaccine Storage and Handling](#) has the most up to date information.



Pfizer (Comirnaty) XFG COVID-19 Vaccine



Pfizer XFG mRNA COVID-19 Vaccine Summary

	Pfizer COVID-19 Ultra Frozen
Dosage/Route	12 years of age and older: 0.3 mL (30 mcg) / IM (deltoid or vastus lateralis)
Packaging	Pre-filled syringe: 10 doses per package
Diluent	No
Indication	Albertans 12 years of age and older See biological page for specific information
Ingredients	• nucleoside-modified mRNA (modRNA) platform • formulated in lipid nanoparticles (LNPs) • no adjuvants, preservatives and antibiotics
Schedule	12 years of age and older • 1 dose, at least three months from previous non-XFG COVID-19 vaccine dose, regardless of the number of doses received in the past.



Schedule for Individuals with Certain Immunocompromising Conditions

Pfizer – 12 years of age and older

Unimmunized/previously received fewer than 3 doses of non-XFG COVID-19 vaccine:

- Immunocompromised individuals should follow the schedule below and receive the appropriate number of COVID-19 vaccine doses to complete a three-dose COVID-19 series.
 - Dose 1: day 0
 - Dose 2: at least 28 days after dose 1
 - Dose 3: 8 weeks after dose 2; however, a minimum interval of 4 weeks may be considered.



Pfizer XFG mRNA COVID-19 Vaccine Reactions

Common	• Pain, swelling/induration, erythema at injection site • Lymphadenopathy • Fatigue, headache, chills, fever • Myalgia, arthralgia • Nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, loss of appetite • Irritability
Uncommon	• Axillary pain, abdominal pain • Dizziness • Rash • Asthenia • Hyperhidrosis, night sweats
Rare	• Allergic reaction • Anaphylaxis • Facial swelling/Bell's Palsy • Myocarditis/Pericarditis • Erythema multiforme Unexpected or unusual side effects can occur. Refer to the product monograph for more detailed information.



Pfizer XFG COVID-19 Vaccine Storage

Pre-filled syringe:

- Store in a refrigerated suspension and **do not freeze**
- Store between +2°C to +8°C until the expiration date printed on the carton and syringe label
- Minimize exposure to room light and avoid exposure to direct sunlight and ultraviolet light
- Do not use vaccine after the expiration date printed on the syringes and cartons regardless of storage condition.



Pfizer Vaccine Preparation

Pre-filled syringe:

- 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
- Discard the pre-filled syringe if it has been frozen
- Do not shake
- Remove the tip cap slowly turning the cap counterclockwise while holding the luer lock
- Attach a needle appropriate for intramuscular injection and administer the entire volume
 - After removing the tip cap and attaching an appropriate needle, the prefilled syringes should be used immediately. If it cannot be used immediately, it must be used within 4 hours.

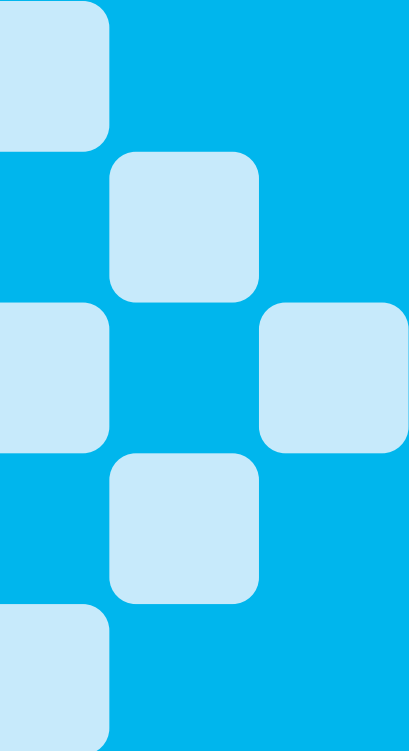


Pfizer Vaccine Transportation

Prefilled syringe:

- Transportation of prefilled syringes is permitted at +2°C to +8°C.
- Label the container as “Fragile: Handle with Care, Do not Drop and Temperature Sensitive”
- Care should be taken to minimize movement during transportation
- Record the transportation temperatures, locations, dates and times, including the duration of transit time
- Do not transport at room temperature

Always refer to [Alberta Vaccine Storage and Handling](#) for the most up to date information.



Novavax (Nuvaxovid) XFG COVID-19 Vaccine



Novavax XFG COVID-19 Vaccine Summary

	COVID-19
Dosage/Route	0.5mL (5mcg) IM (deltoid or vastus lateralis)
Packaging	Single Dose Prefilled Syringe 5 mcg / 0.5 mL
Diluent	No
Indications	Individuals 12 years of age and older
Ingredients	• SARS-CoV-2 recombinant spike protein • Matrix-M adjuvant • Does not contain preservatives, antibiotics or human derived materials.
Schedule	12 years of age and older: • 1 dose, at least three months from previous non-XFG COVID-19 vaccine dose, regardless of the number of doses received in the past.



Schedule for Individuals with Certain Immunocompromising Conditions

Novavax – 12 years of age and older:

Unimmunized/previously received fewer than 3 doses of non-XFG COVID-19 vaccine:

- Immunocompromised individuals should follow the schedule below and receive the appropriate number of COVID-19 vaccine doses to complete a three-dose COVID-19 series.
- Regardless of whether they have received one or two non-XFG COVID-19 vaccine doses, the previous dose(s) should be counted, and the series should not be restarted.
 - Dose 1: day 0
 - Dose 2: at least 28 days after dose 1
 - Dose 3: 8 weeks after dose 2; however, a minimum interval of 4 weeks may be considered.

Schedule for Individuals with Certain Immunocompromising Conditions

Previously received 3 or more doses of non-XFG COVID-19 vaccine:

- 1 dose, at least 3 months from previous non-XFG COVID-19 vaccine dose, regardless of the number of doses received in the past.

Provide appropriate vaccine and dose for age at time of presentation.





Novavax Non-mRNA COVID-19 Vaccine Reactions

Common	• Pain, tenderness, redness, swelling at injection site • Pain or discomfort in the arm, hand, leg and/or foot (pain in the extremity) • Fever • Fatigue • Headache, myalgia, arthralgia • Nausea, vomiting
Uncommon	• Chills
Rare	• Allergic reaction • Anaphylaxis • Hypoaesthesia or paraesthesia • Myocarditis/pericarditis Unexpected or unusual side effects can occur. Refer to the product monograph for more detailed information.



Novavax XFG COVID-19 Vaccine Storage

Pre-filled syringe:

- Store in a refrigerated suspension and **do not freeze**
- Store between +2°C to +8°C until the expiration date printed on the carton and syringe label
- Pre-filled syringes may be transported between +2°C to +8°C
- Minimize exposure to room light and avoid exposure to direct sunlight and ultraviolet light
- Do not use vaccine after the expiration date printed on the syringes and cartons regardless of storage condition.



Novavax Vaccine Preparation

Pre-filled syringe:

- Prior to use, the pre-filled syringes can be stored at temperatures between +2°C to +8°C for a maximum of 6 months or expiry date
- Keep within the outer carton to protect from light
- Discard the pre-filled syringe if it has been frozen
- Do not shake
- With tip cap upright, remove tip cap by twisting counterclockwise until tip cap releases
- Attach a needle appropriate for intramuscular injection and administer the entire volume.

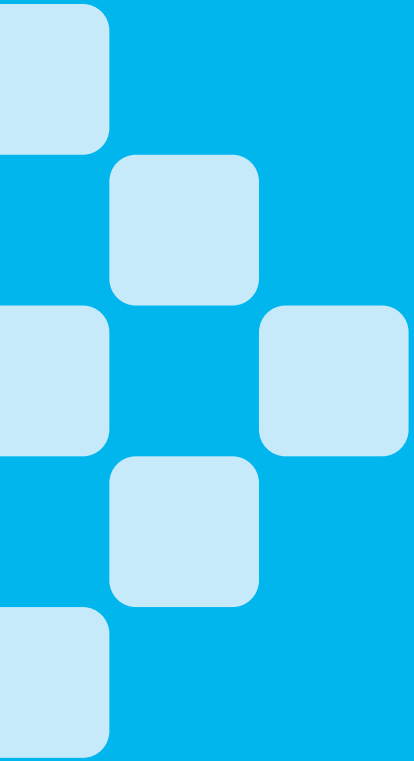


Novavax Vaccine Transportation

Prefilled syringe:

- Transportation of prefilled syringes is permitted at +2°C to +8°C
- Label the container as “Fragile: Handle with Care, Do not Drop and Temperature Sensitive”
- Care should be taken to minimize movement during transportation
- Record the transportation temperatures, locations, dates and times, including the duration of transit time
- Do not transport at room temperature.

Refer to [Alberta Vaccine Storage and Handling](#) for the most up to date information.



COVID-19 Vaccine Contraindications and Precautions



Contraindications

- Individuals with a known severe hypersensitivity to any component of the vaccine.
 - These non-medicinal ingredients in the vaccines have been associated with allergic reactions in other products:
 - Polyethylene glycol (PEG): found in bowel prep products, laxatives, cough syrup, cosmetics, contact lens care solutions, skin products and some food and drinks.
 - Tromethamine (trometamol or Tris): found in contrast media, oral and parenteral medications.
 - Polysorbate 80: found in vitamin oils, tablets, anticancer agents and cosmetics.
- Anaphylaxis to a previous dose of COVID-19 vaccine may not be an absolute contraindication.
 - See COVID-19 Vaccine (mRNA and non-mRNA) biological pages for details.
- Individuals less than licensed age for the product being used.



Precautions

- There are no known serious warnings or precautions associated with mRNA and non-mRNA COVID-19 vaccine products.
- Safety and effectiveness of Moderna & Pfizer is based on safety data from clinical trials and post marketing data.
- Anticoagulant therapy or bleeding disorders that would contraindicate intramuscular injection should not be given the vaccine unless the potential benefit clearly outweighs the risk of administration.
- Postpone in individuals suffering from acute severe febrile illness.
- Serious allergic reaction to another vaccine, drug or food: these individuals should talk to their health care provider before receiving the vaccine.



Myocarditis and/or Pericarditis

- Very rare cases of myocarditis and/or pericarditis following immunization with COVID-19 vaccines have been reported during post authorization use.
- Immunizers should inform individuals about the risk of myocarditis and pericarditis and 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.
- Deferral of COVID-19 immunization is not required for those with a prior history of myocarditis and/or pericarditis that is **unrelated** to COVID-19 vaccines.
 - If these individuals have questions or concerns, they should consult with their most responsible healthcare provider.
 - Consultation with a clinician is not required to receive COVID-19 vaccines.



Myocarditis and/or Pericarditis

- If myocarditis and/or pericarditis occurred within 6 weeks of a previous dose of COVID-19 vaccine and there is **not** a reported AEFI, do not immunize, and refer to Provincial AEFI Team as per [Adverse Event Following Immunization \(AEFI\) Policy for Alberta Immunization Providers](#).
- Defer further doses of COVID-19 vaccines in most circumstances.
 - Refer to each COVID-19 vaccine biological page.
- Obtain informed consent by discussing the low risk of recurrence of myocarditis and/or pericarditis following additional doses of COVID-19 vaccine.



Pregnancy

- COVID-19 vaccine should be offered to pregnant individuals.
- COVID-19 vaccine is recommended for pregnant individuals and can be offered at any trimester.
- mRNA vaccines or Novavax may be used for pregnant individuals.

Additional resources

[Society of Obstetricians and Gynecologists of Canada Statement on COVID-19 Immunization in Pregnancy](#)



Lactation

There have been no safety concerns with receiving a COVID-19 vaccine during lactation.





Co-administration with other vaccines

- May be co-administered with, or at any time before or after other vaccines.
- Do not defer COVID-19 immunization for individuals who have received anti-SARS-CoV-2 monoclonal antibodies or convalescent plasma provided for treatment or prophylaxis of COVID-19.
 - 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.

See COVID-19 vaccine biological page for further details.



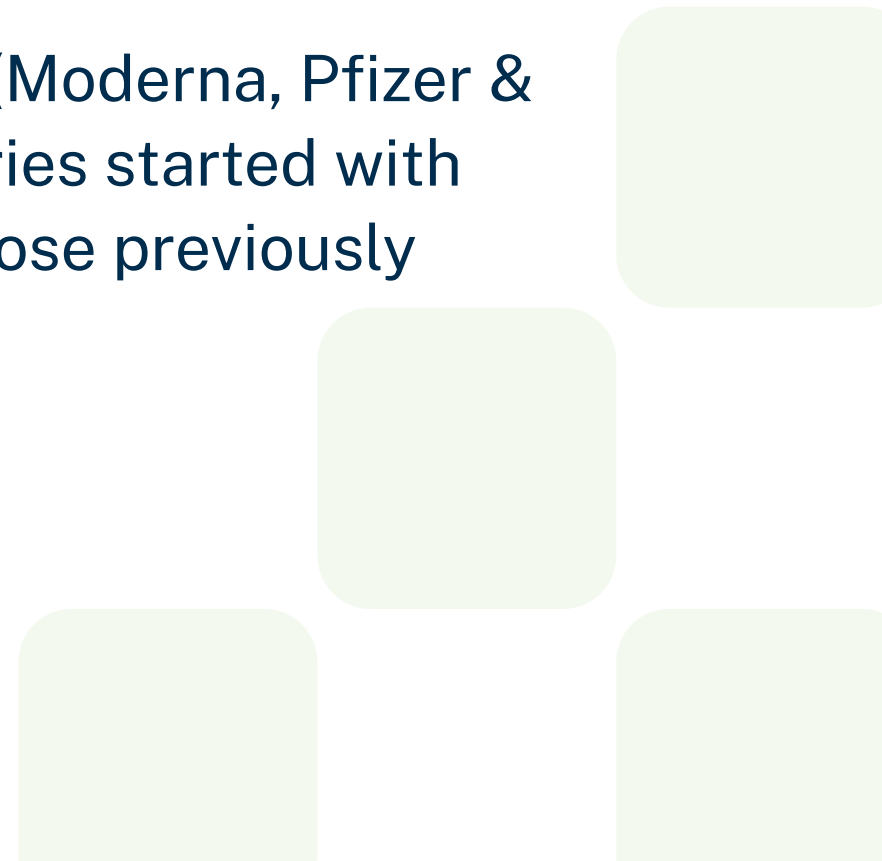
Interval between previous COVID-19 infection and COVID-19 immunization

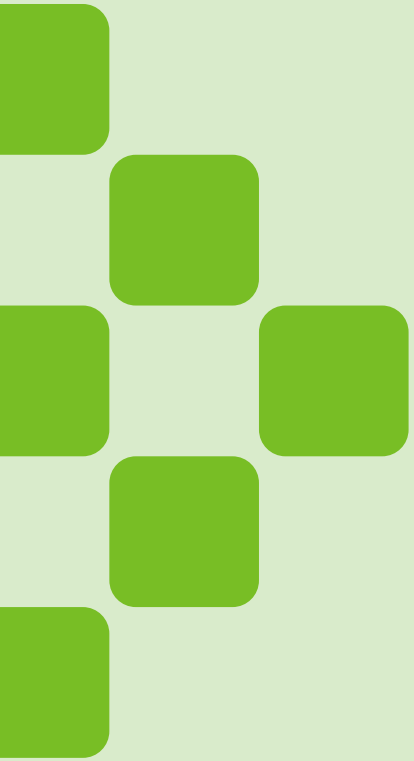
- Individuals who have had a recent COVID-19 infection may receive COVID-19 vaccine after acute symptoms of COVID-19 have resolved and they are no longer infectious, unless there is a history of multisystem inflammatory syndrome in children or adults (MIS-C or MIS-A).
- Individuals with a history of multisystem inflammatory syndrome in children or adults (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.



Interchangeability between COVID-19 Vaccines

- It is preferable to complete any COVID vaccine series with the same product.
- Any of the three authorized COVID-19 vaccines (Moderna, Pfizer & Novavax) can be used to complete a primary series started with another product, and as subsequent doses in those previously immunized.





Other Program Resources

Commitment To Comfort

Commitment to Comfort outlines five principles to improve the immunization experience, health outcomes and satisfaction, and to encourage repeat attendance to healthcare encounters:

- Make a comfort plan
- Use positive language
- Use comfort positions
- Shift attention
- Use numbing cream.





Adverse Events following Immunization (AEFI)

- An adverse event following immunization (AEFI) is defined as a serious or unexpected event temporally associated with immunization.
- Adverse Events Following Immunization (AEFI) policy for Alberta immunization providers may be found in the IPSM and on the PPHS website. The policy includes a list of reportable AEFIs.
- Severe reactions such as anaphylaxis, death and other serious events, should be reported within 24 hours to the AEFI Team.
- All unexpected reactions must be reported within 3 days to the AEFI Team.
- Reportable AEFI's are reported to Primary Preventative Health Services (PPHS), and in turn to the National Surveillance Program.



Adverse Event Following Immunization (AEFI) Reporting

- Consult with AEFI Team as soon as possible for any case where there is uncertainty as to whether a symptom following immunization is related to the immunization
 - Email: AEFI@primarycarealberta.ca
 - Phone: 1-855-444-2324
- **Connect Care users:**
 - PCA users - Public health administered vaccine: complete the *Immunization Event Follow Up* form
 - PCA users - Non-public health administered vaccine: complete the *AEFI Report Form*
 - Non-PCA users: complete the *AEFI Report Form*.
- **Non- Connect Care users** - complete and submit the online form found at: [Adverse Event Following Immunization Reporting](#).

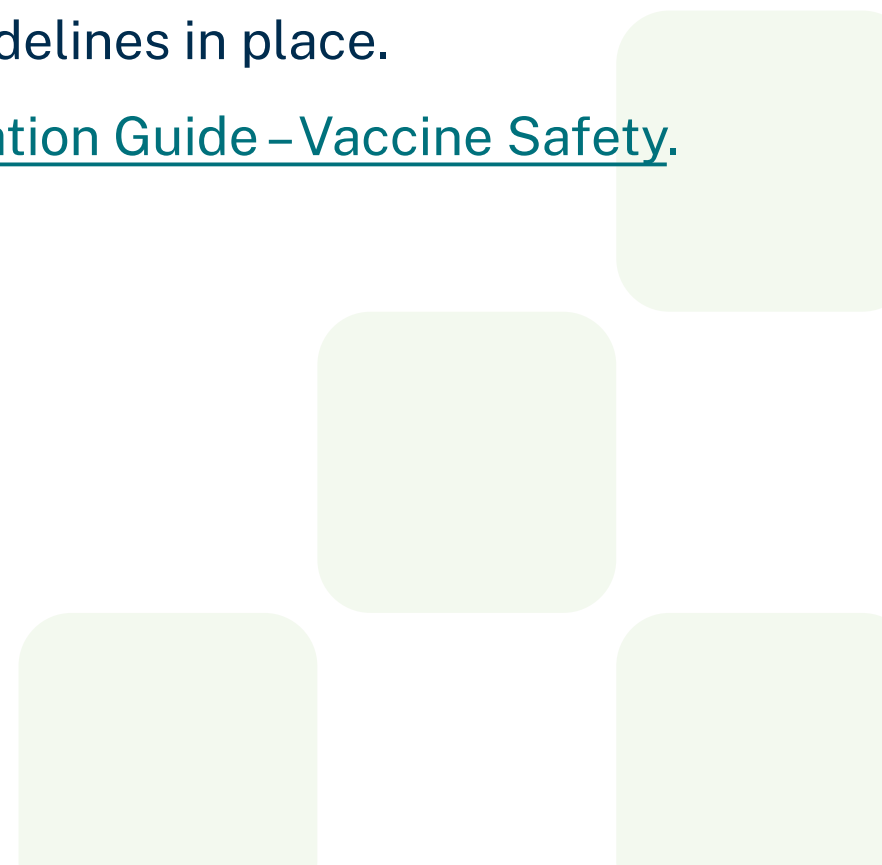


Anaphylaxis

Alberta Health Services employees need to ensure they have completed the [Anaphylaxis Management](#) learning module.

All other providers must have Anaphylaxis Management Guidelines in place.

- Additional information available in the [Canadian Immunization Guide – Vaccine Safety](#).





Questions

Provincial Immunization Clinical Support Team (CDCIMM):

Email: CDCIMM@primarycarealberta.ca

Ph: 1-855-444-2324

Provincial Adverse Effect Following Immunization (AEFI) Team:

Email: AEFI@primarycarealberta.ca

Ph: 1-855-444-2324

Provincial Partner Oversight (PPO) Team:

Email: congregatelivingimmsupport@primarycarealberta.ca

Ph: 1-855-444-2324



References – COVID-19

BioNTech Manufacturing GmbH. (2026, September 10). Comirnaty Omicron XFG Product Monograph.

Centres for Disease Control and Prevention. (2026, Feb 10). *COVID-19 Vaccination for Women Who Are Pregnant or Breastfeeding. In Covid*. Available from: <https://www.cdc.gov/covid/vaccines/pregnant-or-breastfeeding.html>

Moderna Biopharma Canada Corp. (2026, June 19). SPIKEVAX Omicron XFG variant Product Monograph.

National Advisory Committee on Immunization. (2026, June). *Guidance on the use of COVID-19 vaccines starting fall 2026*. Public Health Agency of Canada.

Primary and Preventative Health Services. (2026, September). Alberta Vaccine Storage and Handling. In *Alberta Immunization Policy: Cold chain storage and handling*. Government of Alberta.

Primary and Preventative Health Services. (2026). COVID-19 Vaccine -mRNA. In *Alberta Immunization Policy: Biological Products*. Government of Alberta.

Primary and Preventative Health Services. (2026). COVID-19 Vaccine – non-mRNA. In *Alberta Immunization Policy: Biological Products*. Government of Alberta.

Public Health Agency of Canada. (2025). *Canadian Immunization Guide*. Government of Canada.

Public Health Agency of Canada. (2022, June 1). COVID-19 signs, symptoms and severity of disease: A clinician guide. In *Canadian Immunization Guide*. Government of Canada.

Society of Obstetricians and Gynecologists of Canada. (2023, January 18). SOGC Statement on COVID-19 Vaccination in Pregnancy. In *SOGC Resources*. Available from: <https://sogc.org/en/en/content/COVID-19/COVID-19.aspx>



Primary Care
Alberta

Thank you