

ISC-AB Vaccine Update November 23, 2021

General Key Points:

- Announcements are expected from the province today:
 - It is expected that Alberta will follow the NACI recommendation that first and second doses should be administered at an 8 week interval.
 - It is expected that Alberta will adopt the preferential use of Pfizer for those under age 30; this is expected to reduce the risk of myocarditis and pericarditis following immunization.

Pediatric Vaccine Update:

Dr. Parminder Thiara

- 394,000 doses are expected to arrive in the province today or tomorrow. This is enough for a first dose for each child aged 5 to 11. First Nation communities will be able to access these vaccine doses.
- 14,200 doses were requested for children aged 5 to 11 for on reserve use. Vaccine doses are authorized according to population. Please reach out to Parminder Thiara, Brent Whittal or Christina Smith if more doses are required.
- Expect a poster to come out later today for training on pediatric vaccination.
- Briefly, data from clinical trials indicates that COVID-19 vaccines among children aged 5 to 11 are safe and efficacious.
 - Two cohorts of approximately 2,300 each were studied; there was a 2 to 1 ratio of those vaccinated to those given a placebo.
 - No severe adverse events were recorded; this is not surprising given the small sample size.
 - An antibody response was noted.
 - There were 19 total symptomatic infections, with 16 in the placebo group and 3 in the vaccinated group. This means that there was an efficacy rate of 90.7%, which is comparable to that found in the 12 and older age category.
 - Slightly more localized reactions were seen among those aged 5 to 11 than in the 12 and older age group, but there were lower rates of systemic effects.
 - The trial was conducted using a 21 day dosage interval, but those aged 5 to 11 are expected to receive doses at a longer (8 week) interval.
- In the US, 2.9 million doses have already been given to children, with no adverse safety events being identified yet.
- Out of an abundance of caution, it is not recommended by NACI that pediatric COVID-19 vaccines be co-administered (e.g. with the flu shot or childhood vaccines).
- It is important to avoid waste of vaccines.

Brent Whittal

- During part of Thursday's Pfizer BioNTech Pediatric COVID-19 Vaccine Education session, we will be covering who can administer pediatric 5 to 11 year old COVID vaccines.

- Policies on who can inoculate (including those who can give the COVID-19 vaccine) can be found on the OneHealth website. Information about certification and recertification can also be found there. Please consult the COVID-19 Vaccine Education Checklist.
- Inoculist Certification training A and B is not required, but epi courses 6, 9 and 13 are required. These online courses are available through the Nursing Department. Please contact Suzette Michetti at suzette.michetti@sac-isc.gc.ca for more information.

Cathy McDermott

- There is no new update regarding QR codes. As a reminder, it is important to input postal codes, and I strongly recommend submitting vaccination records every day to avoid backlog.
- I recommend working through all 20 of the training modules discussed earlier, as they will eventually be required.

Questions:

- ***If client records have been submitted improperly and clients have trouble receiving their QR code, who can they contact for help?***
 - This is an Alberta Health Services issue. Contact the Alberta Health COVID Records Help Desk at:
 - <https://www.alberta.ca/covid-records-helpdesk.aspx>
 - Toll free phone: [1-888-527-1224](tel:1-888-527-1224)
 - Email: Covid19Record@gov.ab.ca
 - Hours: 7am to 7pm (Monday to Friday) and 9am to 5pm (Saturday and Sunday)
- ***Will Thursday's session be recorded?***
 - Yes.
- ***If clients are coming in for scheduled second doses at less than an 8 week interval, should the appointments be rescheduled?***
 - I leave this to the discretion of communities. I recommend having a conversation with the client, and if they will return for their second dose at a later date, and if they do not have an urgent need for the second dose (such as imminent travel or a workplace policy), then you may consider increasing the interval between doses. There will be a transition period as we shift to the new recommended interval.
- ***Due to the Registration Exemption Program and with the holidays approaching, many are not going to want to extend the interval to 8 weeks. What do you recommend?***
 - At this time clients must wait a minimum 3 of weeks between doses. I will get clarity on the transition guidance.
- ***Is there an update on CHIP and vaccinations being uploaded to AHS?***
 - All communities will be going live with LRTI within the next few days. I recognize that this issue has caused frustrations. First Nation immunization records continue to be valid and are a recognized exemption. We are working with the province to continue getting that messaging out to avoid situations where there are refusals of entry or service.

- ***If a Moderna vaccination was done at 20 days, should the client receive a second dose again?***
 - Brent Whittal indicated that if a second Moderna vaccine was administered less than 21 days after the first dose then it would need to be re-administered.

- ***If we do not wish to have all doses delivered at one time, will vaccine depots hold our vaccine allotment?***
 - Depots will be able to hold vaccines for a community until needed. Please request the doses that you require from the depots.

Thank you for your continued hard work and dedication. We meet again **December 7, 2021 at 1PM.**