Manitoba Health

Public Health
4th Floor; 300 Carlton Street Winnipeg MB R3B 3M9
vaccines@gov.mb.ca

December 9, 2022

**Re: Pfizer Pediatric BA.4/5 Bivalent COVID-19 Vaccine for 5 to 11 year olds**

Dear Health Care Provider:

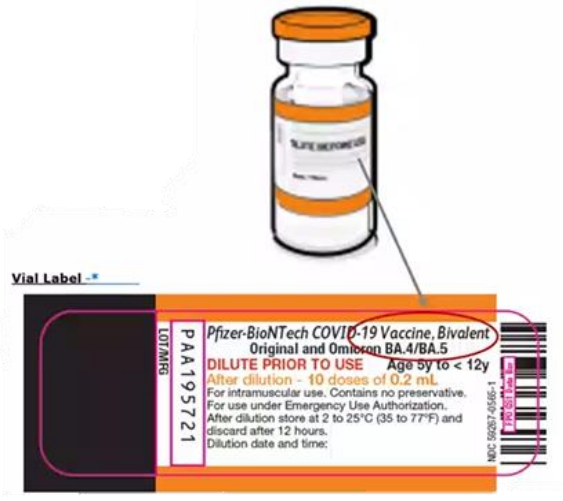
Effective December 9, 2022, Health Canada authorized the use of the Pfizer/Comirnaty™ pediatric BA. 4/5 Bivalent (10 mcg) COVID-19 vaccine as a booster dose for children 5 to 11 years old.

Please note the following eligibility criteria to receive the pediatric bivalent vaccine:

- The Pfizer pediatric BA. 4/5 bivalent vaccine is authorized as a booster dose only. Individuals must complete their primary series (usually two doses) before they can receive the bivalent vaccine.
- It is recommended to wait 6 months after completing their primary series before receiving the bivalent vaccine. However, the minimum interval between the last dose and booster dose is three months.
- At this time, children age 5-11 are only recommended to receive one booster dose after the primary series. Those who have already received an mRNA COVID-19 vaccine as part of the fall COVID-19 vaccine booster program will not usually be eligible for an additional dose of a COVID-19 vaccine. However, health care providers can offer a bivalent vaccine at the recommended interval to children considered at high risk of severe COVID-19 who have previously received a booster dose with a Pfizer monovalent vaccine.

Recommendations from the National Advisory Committee on Immunizations (NACI) on the use of the pediatric bivalent vaccine are available at: https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/publications/healthy-living/canadian-immunization-guide-part-4-active-vaccines/page-26-covid-19-vaccine.html

Please note the product will have very similar packaging to the current monovalent pediatric product, with an **ORANGE cap and ORANGE border** to the label on both the vial and packaging and will require the use of diluent. The distinguishing feature between the two products will be the inclusion of the BA.4/5 annotation to the name of the product for the bivalent formulation.



Please refer to the
mRNA / non-mRNA vaccines COVID-19 Vaccines and Influenza and Pneumococcal Vaccines Approved for Use in Canada: 2022-2023.

Detailed product information is available in the product monograph, including the storage and stability at https://manitoba.ca/covid19/vaccine/resources.html#productmonographs

**Access:** The vaccine will be offered through vaccine clinics, doctors' offices, pharmacies and in First Nation communities.

**Communications:** An updated provincial factsheet will be available in the coming days at: www.gov.mb.ca/covid19/vaccine/resources.html.

**Reporting doses administered:** All immunizations administered are to be recorded and reported with the correct product and strength to ensure accurate electronic immunization records.

- Physicians are to use tariff 8221 for Pfizer/Comirnaty™ pediatric bivalent (10 mcg) vaccine when billing for doses administered.

**Distribution and allocation:** Participating health care providers can order the pediatric bivalent vaccine using the same method as is done for all other COVID-19 vaccine products.

- If not yet registered as a COVID-19 vaccine immunizer, go to www.manitoba.ca/covid19/vaccine/partners/index.html to register.
- If already registered, Manitoba will be including the Pfizer/Comirnaty™ bivalent pediatric vaccine in the weekly surveys and the requests will be reviewed and filled accordingly.

Please share this information with all relevant colleagues in your facility/clinic.

Sincerely,

*"Original Signed by"*

Richard Baydack, PhD
Director
Communicable Disease Control

*"Original Signed by"*

Davinder Singh, MD, MSc, FRCPC
Medical Lead, Vaccines,
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