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To / Dest. Horizon Health Network / Réseau de santé Horizon; Vitalité Health Network / Réseau de santé Vitalité, NBMS / SMNB, RMOH / MHR, Regional Public Health Directors / Directeurs régionaux de la santé publique; Immunization Coordinators / Coordonnatrices et coordonnateurs de l'immunisation; NANB / AIINB; ANBLPN / AIAANB; NBPA / APNB; College of Pharmacists / Ordre des pharmaciens; SD/DS; Long Term Care Services / Services de soins de longue durée; NPNB / IPNB; EM ANB/PEM ANB; Stéphane Legacy; Danielle McLennan, Richard Garceau

From / Exp. Dr. Yves Léger, Acting Deputy Chief Medical Officer of Health / Médecin-hygiéniste en chef adjoint par intérim

Copies Dr./D^{re} Jennifer Russell; Jennifer Elliott; Éric Levesque; Shelley Landsburg, Nadia Drisdelle, Francis Durepos, Sarah Maillet

Subject / Objet **Vaccination post COVID-19 Infection / Vaccination après une infection à la COVID-19**

Based on available evidence on immunity following infection, the current suggested interval between SARS-COV-2 infection and subsequent vaccine doses is outlined in the table below.

Compte tenu des données disponibles probantes sur l'immunité acquise à la suite d'une infection, l'intervalle actuel suggéré entre une infection par le SARS-CoV-2 et les doses de vaccin suivantes est indiqué dans le tableau ci-dessous.

| Infection Before the Start or Completion of a Primary Vaccination Series | |
|---|--|
| Population | Suggested interval between COVID-19 infection and vaccination |
| 5 years of age and older; not considered moderately to severely immunocompromised; no previous history of Multisystem inflammatory syndrome in children MIS-C | 8 weeks after symptom onset or positive test (if asymptomatic) |

| Infection avant le début ou la fin des séries primaires de vaccination | |
|---|---|
| Population | Intervalle suggéré entre l'infection à la COVID-19 et la vaccination |
| Enfants de 5 ans ou plus qui ne sont pas considérés comme modérément ou gravement immunodéprimés et qui n'ont pas d'antécédents de syndrome inflammatoire multisystémique chez les enfants (SIME) | Huit semaines après l'apparition des symptômes ou un test positif (en l'absence de symptômes) |

| | |
|--|--|
| 5 years of age and older; moderately to severely immunocompromised; no previous history of MIS-C | 4 to 8 weeks after symptom onset or positive test (if asymptomatic) |
| 5 years of age and older; previous history of MIS-C (regardless of immunocompromised state) | Receive the vaccine dose when clinically recovered or >90 days since the onset of MIS-C, whichever is longer |

| | |
|---|--|
| Enfants de 5 ans ou plus qui sont modérément ou gravement immunodéprimés et qui n'ont pas d'antécédents de SIME | De quatre à huit semaines après l'apparition des symptômes ou un test positif (en l'absence de symptômes) |
| Enfants de 5 ans ou plus qui ont des antécédents de SIME (peu importe l'état d'immunodépression) | Administration de la dose de vaccin lorsque la guérison clinique a été obtenue ou après 90 jours ou plus depuis le début du SIME, selon la période la plus longue. |

| Infection after primary series but before booster dose | |
|--|---|
| Population | Suggested interval between COVID-19 infection and vaccination |
| 12 years of age and older | 3 months after symptom onset or positive test (if asymptomatic) AND at least 5 months from *primary series completion |

| Infection après la série primaire de vaccination, mais avant la dose de rappel | |
|--|--|
| Population | Intervalle suggéré entre l'infection à la COVID-19 et la vaccination |
| Personnes de 12 ans et plus | Trois mois après l'apparition des symptômes ou un test positif (en l'absence de symptômes) ET au moins cinq mois après la fin de la *série primaire de vaccination |

* Definitions of a primary series are:

- 2 full doses of a combination of either of the following COVID-19 vaccines: AstraZeneca, COVISHIELD, Moderna and Pfizer
- 1 full dose of Janssen (Johnson & Johnson)
- For individuals 5 and over who are moderately to severely immunocompromised a primary series is now considered 3 doses.

* Les définitions d'une série primaire sont :

- Deux doses d'une combinaison de vaccins contre la COVID-19 (AstraZeneca, COVISHIELD, Moderna ou Pfizer-BioNTech)
- Une dose du vaccin Janssen de Johnson & Johnson
- Pour les personnes immunodéprimées, une série primaire est maintenant considérée comme 3 doses.

These intervals serve as a guide and clinical discretion is advised. Evolving evidence will continue to be evaluated and communication will be updated as needed.

Ces intervalles sont donnés à titre indicatif et la discrétion clinique est recommandée. L'évolution des données probantes continuera d'être évaluée et la communication sera mise à jour au besoin.

A longer interval between infection and vaccination may result in a better immune response as this allows time for this response to mature in breadth and strength, and for circulating antibodies to decrease, thus avoiding immune interference when COVID-19 vaccines are administered.

Un intervalle plus long entre l'infection et la vaccination peut entraîner une meilleure réponse immunitaire, car il laisse le temps à cette réponse de gagner en ampleur et en force, et aux anticorps circulants de diminuer, évitant ainsi toute interférence immunitaire lors de l'administration des vaccins contre la COVID-19.

Individuals may choose to get their vaccine sooner than the recommended intervals. At a minimum, symptoms of an acute illness should be completely resolved, and provided 10 days has passed since the onset of symptoms of positive test to minimize the risk

Les personnes peuvent choisir de se faire vacciner plus tôt que les intervalles recommandés. Au minimum, les symptômes d'une maladie aiguë doivent avoir complètement disparu et 10 jours doivent s'être écoulés depuis l'apparition des

of transmission of COVID-19 at an immunization venue.

COVID-19 vaccination continues to be very important even for those with a history of prior infection, as vaccination is expected to broaden and strengthen the response in order to provide longer protection against current and future variants.

Sincerely,

symptômes d'un test positif pour réduire le risque de transmission de la COVID-19 dans un lieu de vaccination.

La vaccination contre la COVID-19 demeure très importante, même pour les personnes ayant déjà été infectées, car la vaccination devrait élargir et renforcer la réponse immunitaire afin d'assurer une protection plus longue contre les variants actuels et futurs.

Sincères salutations,



Dr. Yves A. Léger, MD, MHSc, FRCPC
Acting Deputy Chief Medical Officer of Health
Médecin-hygiéniste en chef adjoint par intérim

FAQ's: When should I get vaccinated after a COVID-19 Infection?

The National Advisory Committee on Immunization (NACI) and New Brunswick continues to recommend vaccination to be very important to help protect against severe outcomes from COVID-19, even for those with a prior COVID-19 infection given the anticipated benefits of better immune response and optimizing protection against severe disease and hospitalisations.

1. How strong is the protection from infection?

For variants that circulated before Omicron, some studies noted that past infection offers good protection from re-infection, but this protection decreases over time. Evidence is growing that protection in people with previous infection who have been vaccinated is stronger and longer-lasting compared to protection from infection alone.

The risk of re-infection with Omicron (among people who previously had COVID-19) is higher than the risk of reinfection from previous variants. Vaccination is expected to strengthen the response in order to provide longer-lasting protection against current and future variants. That's why complete and up-to-date COVID-19 vaccination is recommended to provide the best possible protection for the future against severe illness from COVID-19.

2. For individuals 5 years of age and older who are not vaccinated but were infected with COVID-19. When should I book the first vaccine dose?

If you or your child have not had any previous doses of a COVID-19 vaccine, you may book your/your child's first dose (**aged 5 and over**) 8 weeks after symptom onset or positive test (if asymptomatic).

3. For individuals 5 years of age and older, not considered moderately to severely immunocompromised, no history of multisystem inflammatory syndrome (MIS-C), and in between doses of their primary series of the COVID-19 vaccines (i.e.: not yet received their 2nd dose). When should I book the next vaccine dose?

It is recommended that you book the second dose **8** weeks after symptom onset or a positive COVID-19 test.

4. For individuals 5 years of age and older who require a 3-dose series, considered moderately to severely immunocompromised (indicated in the Government of New Brunswick's [Declaration of Eligibility form](#)), without a history of MIS-C, and in between doses of their primary series of the COVID-19 vaccines (i.e.: not yet received either the 2nd or the 3rd primary series dose). When should I book the next vaccine dose?

It is recommended that you book the next dose 4-8 weeks after symptom onset or a positive COVID-19 test. This applies to either a second or third dose.

- 5. For individuals 5 years of age and older with a history of MIS-C (regardless if they are healthy or immunocompromised), and in between doses of their primary series of the COVID-19 vaccines (i.e.: not yet received either the 2nd or 3rd primary series dose). When should I book the next vaccine dose?**

It is recommended that you book the next dose after recovery of the illness or over 90 days has passed since the diagnosis by the health care provider (whichever period is the longest).

- 6. For individuals aged 12 years of age and older who finished their primary series but got infected before they received the booster dose (regardless if they are healthy or immunocompromised). When should I book my booster?**

It is recommended to book your booster dose if it has been at least 5 months since the last dose of your primary series and at least 3 months after your symptoms began or after receiving a positive COVID-19 test.

- 7. For individuals who would like to receive their next vaccine dose sooner than the recommended intervals. Can I book the vaccine sooner?**

These intervals serve as a guide and should you have concerns regarding how this applies to you, please communicate with your Primary Health Care Provider. It is important to follow these intervals as much as possible given the benefits of a better immune response and protection against COVID-19.

At a minimum, symptoms of your acute illness should be completely resolved, you should not be contagious prior to vaccination (i.e. 10 days has passed since the beginning of your quarantine period) and eligible to get your next dose.