



NS Health Pharmacist Vaccine Consult Service

VACCINE UPDATE

December 20, 2022

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NS Health Pharmacist Vaccine Consult Service

FOR DISTRIBUTION TO

Pharmacy Association of Nova Scotia, Nova Scotia College of Pharmacists, Nova Scotia Health, IWK, Primary Health Care, Public Health, and Continuing Care

CONTACT

NS Health Pharmacist Vaccine Consult Service
1-833-768-1151 or CovidVaccineConsult@nshealth.ca
7 days a week from 8:30am to 4:30pm

ISSUE

- Best practice
- Drug shortage
- Pack size/packaging change
- Medication change
- Recall
- Medication/Vaccine Advisory
- Other:

COVID-19 Bivalent Vaccine Administration Errors

Comirnaty® (Pfizer-BioNTech) bivalent and Spikevax™ (Moderna) bivalent vaccines have significant similarities in their packaging with ancestral products, increasing the risk of administration errors. To communicate this risk broadly with pharmacist immunizers, NSCP distributed a [Professional Notice: Vaccine Clinic Errors: Contributing Factors and Lessons Learned](#) on December 14, 2022. To ensure a consistent mechanism for reporting and follow up when vaccine administration errors occur, the NS Health [Vaccine Pharmacist Consult Service](#) will provide advice on recommended actions as determined by the Nova Scotia Department of Health and Wellness and will assist with patient follow-up.

Individuals who booked a bivalent COVID-19 vaccine but inadvertently received an ancestral vaccine should be counselled that although they received an ancestral product that this vaccine continues to protect against severe disease. However, given that the ancestral vaccine was administered in error, these individuals can be offered a bivalent COVID-19 vaccine if they wish to receive a bivalent product after 3 months has passed. Three months is the minimum fall dose interval as recommended by NACI. This bivalent dose at the 3-month interval is a one time exception in response to the administration error.

Once a healthcare provider notifies the [COVID-19 Vaccine Pharmacist Consult Service](#) of accidental ancestral administration in patient(s) who booked a bivalent vaccine appointment, the service will work with the Pharmacy Association of Nova Scotia and CANimmunize to generate a spreadsheet of clinic patients. Pharmacy staff will then identify and document which patients would like to have bivalent vaccination and return the spreadsheet to CANimmunize via secure email. If additional patients are identified who are not on the spreadsheet, please add them to the list.

The NS Health [COVID-19 Vaccine Pharmacist Consult Service](#) is available to answer questions 7 days a week from 8:30am to 4:30pm by calling: 1-833-768-1151 or emailing: CovidVaccineConsult@nshealth.ca.