

To: Nova Scotia Health Care Practitioners and Immunizers

From: Dr. Shelley Deeks, Deputy Chief Medical Officer of Health

Date: February 9, 2022

Re: *Timing of COVID-19 vaccination following SARS-CoV-2 infection*

NACI has recently provided [updated guidance](#) on suggested intervals between SARS-CoV-2 infection and COVID-19 vaccination. This guidance is based on available evidence on immunity following infection and vaccination, basic principles of vaccinology and immunology, and expert opinion informed by knowledge of other viral diseases. The optimal interval between infection and vaccination remains unknown. 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.

It is advised that individuals who have experienced previous SARS-CoV-2 infection, inclusive of individuals who are moderately to severely immunocompromised or who have experienced multisystem inflammatory syndrome in children (MIS-C), receive COVID-19 vaccines at intervals as described below.

Timing of infection	Population	Suggested interval between COVID-19 infection and vaccination
Infection before start or completion of primary vaccination series	5 years of age and older; not considered moderately to severely immunocompromised; no previous history of MIS-C	8 weeks after symptom onset or positive test (if asymptomatic)
	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
Infection after primary series but before booster dose	12 years of age and older	3 months after symptom onset or positive test (if asymptomatic) AND 168 days from primary series completion

Individual benefit/risk assessment and clinical discretion are advised, including risk factors for exposure and severe outcomes. Some people may choose to receive a vaccine dose after acute symptoms of COVID-19 have resolved and they are no longer infectious. Suggested intervals may change as additional evidence on the extent and duration of protection provided by infection emerges. Evolving evidence will continue to be evaluated and we will continue to keep you informed of any changes. People who have already received a dose of vaccine immediately after recovering from a COVID-19 infection do not need to repeat the dose.