

## Professional Notice

**To:** Pharmacy Practitioners  
**From:** Nova Scotia College of Pharmacists  
**Date:** April 29, 2022  
**Re:** Reduced Age Limit for Drug Administration of Flu and COVID Vaccines

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The NSCP has amended the [Standards of Practice: Drug Administration](#) to enable pharmacy practitioners with a valid injection permit or technical permit, **and who have attained the necessary competencies, to administer influenza and SARS-CoV-2 vaccines to individuals 6 months-2 years of age**. Please note: The age limit for all other drug administration by injection activities remains at 2 years of age and older.

**Are all pharmacy practitioners with a valid injection or technical permit able to administer influenza and SARS-CoV-2 vaccines to this new age group of young children?**

- No, there are specific and unique competencies that a pharmacy practitioner must attain and be competent to perform prior to administering vaccines to these younger children. A section titled **Drug Administration by Injection in Young Children** has been added to [Appendix B of the Standards](#) that describes the additional knowledge requirements, beyond the technical skills requirements, that are necessary to appropriately provide drug administration in young children.

**Does administering a vaccine for influenza or SARS-CoV-2 to children under the age of 2 years old require an intramuscular (IM) injection into a muscle other than the deltoid?**

- While it may be appropriate in some instances to administer an injection into the deltoid muscle for individuals in this age group, for others, injection into a different muscle will be necessary.
- Prior to administering IM injections into sites other than the deltoid, pharmacy practitioners must:
  - have received additional training;
  - be satisfied they have the competency to administer the medication to the alternative site; and
  - have demonstrated their competency to do so.

\* For clarity, appropriate training includes an opportunity for the pharmacy practitioner to have landmarked and administered the medication into the site under the guidance of an individual who assesses and confirms their competency.

**Will there be training available for those looking to gain the required competencies that are set out in Appendix B?**

- [Dalhousie Continuing Pharmacy Education](#) (CPE) will be offering a Pediatric Injection Training Program that will include both an online component and live training in the follow areas:
  - Halifax May 15, 2022 (additional date TDB for May or June 2022)
  - Yarmouth June 11, 2022
  - Sydney TBD June 2022

- The Dalhousie CPE training program is not specifically required, and training/demonstration of competence can be sought elsewhere.

**Has a SARS-CoV-2 vaccine been approved for children under the age of 5 years old?**

- A SARS-CoV-2 vaccine has not yet been approved for children under the age of 5 at this time. It is expected that manufacturer submissions (Moderna and Pfizer) for children under the age of 5 will be under review by Health Canada shortly.

**What is the age limit for other vaccines that are not for influenza or SARS-CoV-2?**

- At this time, the age limit for all other drug administration by injection activities remains at 2 years of age and older.