

October 5, 2021

## **COVID-19 Vaccine: Expansion of Third Doses to Health Care Personnel and to People who received a Viral Vector Vaccine Series**

Emerging evidence suggests that immunity to a complete series of COVID-19 vaccination wanes over time, at least with respect to symptomatic infection. Effectiveness for healthy individuals remains high against severe outcomes (e.g., hospitalization and death). Health care personnel who have direct contact with patients/residents/clients who are fully immunized but become infected could transmit COVID-19 in various health care settings and if symptomatic, will be required to isolate. **Health care personnel who have direct contact with patients, residents and clients are recommended to receive a third dose of an mRNA vaccine at least 6 months after their second dose of any COVID-19 vaccine.** This includes health care personnel who have direct contact with patients, residents and clients at:

- (a) hospitals;
- (b) northern nursing stations operated by the Government of Manitoba;
- (c) personal care homes or supportive housing facilities;
- (d) facilities operated by Shared Health Inc., a regional health authority, Addictions Foundation of Manitoba or a community services agency that are the subject of a funding agreement with Shared Health Inc. or a regional health authority;
- (e) a residential mental health facility or addictions treatment facility that is operated by or the subject of a funding agreement with the Government of Manitoba.  
*For certainty, this includes physicians, nurses, allied health professionals, health care aides, cleaning staff, support services staff as well as persons volunteering at those facilities who have direct contact with patients, residents and clients.*
- (f) This also includes physicians, pharmacists and nurses who provide direct patient care in any setting.

Where possible, the third dose should be with the same mRNA vaccine as the previous dose.

### *For people who received a viral vector vaccine series:*

Data from clinical trials and observational studies suggests that the viral vector vaccines may be comparatively less protective over time than the mRNA vaccines. **Manitoba recommends that individuals who received a viral vector vaccines series (two doses of AstraZeneca at least 28 days apart, or one-dose of Janssen) receive an additional dose of an mRNA vaccine at least 6 months after their last dose of a viral vector vaccine.** Individuals who had a mixed vaccine series (i.e., one dose of a viral vector vaccine, one dose of an mRNA vaccine) are not recommended at this time to receive any additional mRNA doses.

Third doses can be offered at any location that currently offers COVID-19 vaccine. Further details on where clients can access a booster/third dose as well as situations that require a

prescription, are available online (<https://www.gov.mb.ca/covid19/vaccine/eligibility-criteria.html>) and in the updated Clinical Practice Guidelines.

The Clinical Practice Guidelines will be updated to reflect these changes and posted at <https://www.gov.mb.ca/covid19/vaccine/healthcare-professionals.html>.

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

Sincerely,

*“Original Signed by”*

Joss Reimer, MD FRCPC MPH  
**Medical Lead, Vaccine Implementation Task Force**