

## Fall Booster Campaign Technical Briefing for Media September 6, 2022

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BC Provincial Health Officer



Stay Informed Via These Resources:  
[gov.bc.ca/Covid-19](https://gov.bc.ca/Covid-19) | [bccdc.ca](https://bccdc.ca) | 1-888-COVID19

Symptom Self-Assessment:  
[covid19.thrive.health](https://covid19.thrive.health)



# Time for Fall Boosters, Registering Children for their Vaccine

- People will begin receiving invitations to book fall 2022 booster doses soon and should book their appointments as soon as the invitation arrives
- Parents and guardians should make sure their children's vaccines are up to date and they receive a fall booster, if appropriate
- As students go back to school, make sure they are protected against COVID-19 with up-to-date vaccinations

# About “Bivalent Vaccines”

- “Bivalent” or combination vaccines are very common – the most common is the influenza vaccine which often has three or four combinations of vaccine
- Bivalent vaccines offer a combination of protection against different variants of a virus
- The bivalent COVID-19 vaccine is an adapted version of the Moderna Spikevax COVID-19 vaccine and targets the original COVID-19 virus including the Omicron variant
- It will be more effective to protect people against the Omicron variant, which is the most common variant in B.C. right now
- Health Canada approved this vaccine on September 1, 2022 and it is safe and effective and everyone eligible is encouraged to get a booster dose this fall

# NACI: The following increases the risk of poor outcomes from COVID-19

- Immunocompromised state
  - Due to underlying disease or medications
- Cancer: active treatment
- Chronic kidney disease
- Chronic lung diseases, including uncontrolled asthma
- Diabetes (Type 1 & 2)
- Pregnancy
- Cystic fibrosis
- Sickle cell disease or thalassemia
- Chronic liver disease
- Neurodevelopmental and other chronic neurological conditions
  - Including epilepsy and cerebrovascular disease
- Down syndrome (Trisomy 21)
- Congenital heart disease or other chronic heart diseases, including pulmonary hypertension
- Obesity (BMI  $\geq 30$ )
- Substance use disorders
- Medically fragile/having medically complex needs

# NACI: Interval for COVID-19 Fall Booster

- **Recommended** 6-month interval or more from last vaccination
- **Minimum** interval 3-months from last vaccination
  - For logistical or operational reasons – examples: vaccination of multiple residents in a facility or remote setting, necessary travel
  - Local epidemiology - example: outbreak in congregate setting
- **Infection** with COVID-19 - recommend 3-to-6-month interval from illness

# NACI Recommendations for Fall 2022 Booster

NACI **recommends** the following 'should be offered' a Fall Booster at 6+ months (minimum 3-month interval)

- Residents of long-term care facilities, assisted living, homebound and other congregate living settings for seniors
- Older adults (65+ years of age)
- CEV 1, 2, 3 - Individuals 12+ years of age with an underlying medical condition or disability which places them at high risk of severe COVID-19
- Adults in or from First Nations, Métis, or Inuit communities, where infection can have disproportionate consequences
- Residents of other congregate living settings (e.g., quarters for migrant workers, shelters, correctional facilities, group homes) who are 12+ years of age
- Adults in racialized communities and/or marginalized communities disproportionately affected by COVID-19

NACI was **permissive** for Fall Booster for the 12+ population (at 6+ month interval)

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# COVID-19 Vaccination Progress Highlights

(as of September 1, 2022)

## 12.04 million total vaccines administered since start of COVID-19 vaccination program

6 month to 4 years <i>(total population 208,000)</i>	17,452 number of vaccines given 26,582 children registered
5 to 11 years <i>(total population 349,320)</i>	Dose 2: 46.5% Booster just started: 0.1%
12+ years	Dose 2: 91.4%
Dose 3 / First Booster	60.2% of 12+ population has received first booster (approximately 67% of those eligible)  Approximately 1.29 million eligible and invited individuals still have <b>NOT</b> received first booster
Dose 4 / Spring Booster	Approximately 565,000 total doses administered to date (approximately 69% of those eligible)



# NACI: Fall Booster Vaccine Eligibility

**Fall Booster Interval:  
6 months or more from last shot**

## **Combination/Bivalent Moderna Vaccine**

- Adults 18+
- 12 to 17 – high risk: immunosuppressed, chronic illness, or other vulnerability

## **Regular COVID-19 Vaccines**

- 12 to 17 no risk factors
- 5 to 11 years (Pfizer Pediatric)

**Not Eligible  
for Booster**

- 6 month to 4 years

**All 6+ month are eligible for Influenza vaccine**

# B.C. Current Status of COVID-19 Vaccination Program

- Program Activity:
  - 20,000 to 60,000 COVID-19 vaccinations per week over last 6 months – 7 day per week activity
  - 3 new programs:
    - Spring Booster
    - Children 6-month to 4-years
    - Children 5-to-11 years first booster
  - 7 COVID-19 vaccines currently in play
- Pharmacies: delivering 75%-85% of youth and adult program over last 6 months
- Health Authorities have responsibility for:
  - Clinics for children 6-months to 11-years
  - Long term care, assisted living and other congregate settings
  - Hard to reach populations (homeless, sheltered, corrections, work camps)
  - Whole community in rural and remote locations and where insufficient pharmacy coverage

# Current COVID-19 Vaccines Available in B.C.

VACCINE	Primary Series Adult and Youth 12+	Adults 18+ Booster	Youth 12 to 17 Booster	Children 5 to 11 Primary and Booster	Children 6 months to 4 Primary Only
Moderna Bi-valent		X Recommended	Identified Risk groups		
Moderna	X	X	X		
Pfizer	X	X	X		
Janssen	X (18+ only)	X			
Novavax	X (18+ only)	X			
Paed Pfizer				X	
Paed Moderna					X

# Logistics - B.C. COVID-19 Vaccination Program

- Health Authorities and pharmacies place order with Immunize BC
- Immunize BC places order with Canada (National Operations Centre (NOC)) 2 weeks in advance
- Vaccine is distributed by the NOC - direct to pharmacy distributors and health authority regional depots
- Takes approximately 1 week for each week's supply of vaccine to distributed throughout the province

# Key Elements of Fall Booster Campaign

**B.C. Public**

**Public Health Leadership**

**Vaccine Supply:  
COVID-19 and  
Influenza**

**Health Authority  
Vaccine Clinics**

**Community  
Partners**

**Pharmacies**

**Vaccine Distribution (Cold Chain)**

**IMMUNIZEBC and Vaccine Program Team**

***SYSTEM: Get Vaccinated B.C. and Provincial Call Centre***

# Plan for Fall 2022 Booster

- **Everyone** 5 years and older is encouraged to get a fall booster at 6-month interval from last shot
  - For those who were infected since last shot – recommend a 3 month interval from infection
- **Start** as soon as Moderna combination/bivalent vaccine arrives (due this week)
  - Invites to start end of this week (pending arrival of vaccine)
  - Pharmacies start first. Approximately 517 pharmacies will be the first to receive vaccine when it arrives
  - Health authority clinics start September 19
- **Prioritization** of COVID-19 invites dictated by interval since last dose and risk of poor outcome from COVID-19
- **Vaccination Capacity:** first couple of weeks aligned with combination/bivalent vaccine supply; then move to planned maximum supply by last week of September 2022
  - At maximum 280,000 individuals per week
  - With influenza co-administration - maximum 250,000 individuals per week
- **Influenza vaccine** co-administration with COVID-19 vaccine will be offered when influenza vaccine arrives (early October 2022) universal eligibility 6 month and up
- **System:** *Get Vaccinated BC* being used for both COVID-19 and Influenza

# Draft Plan for Flow of Combination (Bivalent) Vaccine to B.C. (NOC)

*(as of September 1, 2022)*

Vaccine	Arrive in B.C.	Total Doses
Moderna Bivalent	Week of September 6, 2022	109,300
Moderna Bivalent	Week of September 12, 2022	306,400
Moderna Bivalent	Week of September 19, 2022	405,000*
Pfizer Bivalent	Week of September 19, 2022	258,900 **
Pfizer Bivalent	Week of September 26, 2022	258,900 **
Moderna Bivalent	Week of September 26, 2022	405,000*
Moderna Bivalent	Week of October 3, 2022	202,500*

# Projected Uptake of Fall Booster

- Provincial survey (July and August):
  - 35% of those with *primary series (Dose 1 & 2, no booster)* say they will get one (currently 1.3 million do not have a booster)
  - 65% of those *with a first booster* say they will definitely get regular recommended boosters, and 21% say they likely will
- Spring Booster/Dose 4:
  - Approximately 70% of those *eligible* have taken spring booster



# Modelling for Fall 2022 Booster Program

- Model built based on estimates of uptake from provincial survey and experience of last 2 years – flexibility built in to adjust
- Over 4 million invites will be sent out based on key priority groups
- Plan to optimize capacity with health authority clinics and pharmacies for about 10 to 12 weeks until demand wanes, and then move program to pharmacies
  - Facilities, outreach programs and children's vaccination will remain responsibility of health authorities
- Co-administration of influenza will occur in most pharmacies and health authority clinics
  - Spring booster eligible population (high risk and 70+) will be first priority

# Prioritization for Flow of Invites

## Key Variables

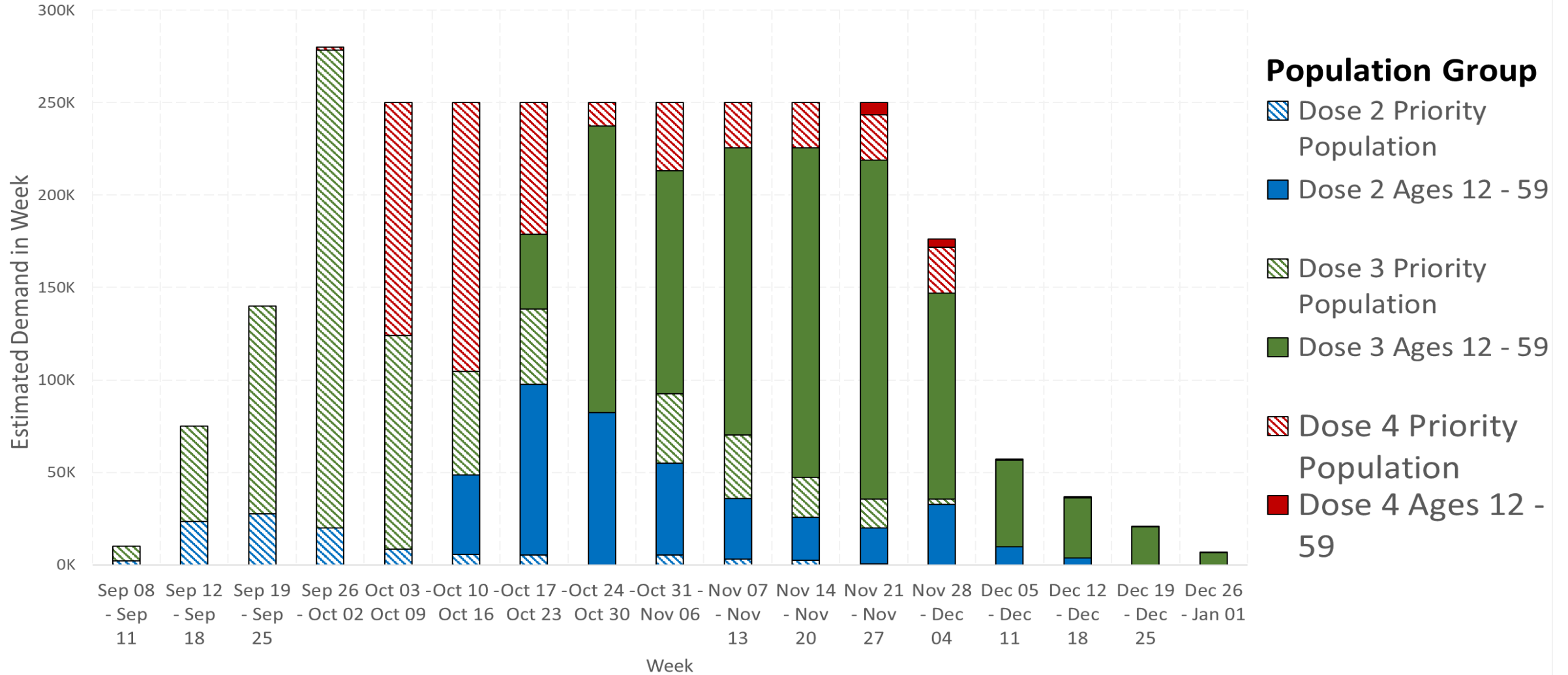


## Prioritization of Invites

- Need to protect Health System
- Individuals with risk of poor outcome from COVID-19
- Interval from last COVID-19 vaccination
- Desire to co-administer COVID-19 and Influenza vaccines asap to highest risk groups
- Vaccination program capacity
- Recent COVID-19 infection (3 months)

- Health System
  - Health care workers
- Risk groups:
  - Clinically extremely vulnerable groups: immunosuppressed (CEV 1, 2) and other chronic condition (CEV 3)
  - Age related risk (60+)
  - Indigenous and congregate settings
- Those with long interval since last vaccination
- Spring Booster eligible group by early October for influenza co-administration

# Fall Booster Estimated Demand Flow by Population Group



# Steps to Get Your Fall Booster



- Ensure Registration in **Get Vaccinated BC** – online or through *Provincial Call Centre 1-833-838-2323*
- Update email or mobile number in *Get Vaccinated BC* if it has changed
- If you recently arrived to B.C. submit COVID-19 vaccination record to <https://www.immunizationrecord.gov.bc.ca> so you will get your invitation
- Wait for invitation for Fall Booster – by mobile or email from *Get Vaccinated BC*
- When invitation arrives, book an appointment online for COVID-19 vaccination in pharmacy or health authority clinic; get help through Provincial Call Centre if you need it
- In October, you can book an appointment for COVID-19 **and** Influenza if desired
- Residents of long-term care, assisted living or frail homebound, and those in other congregate settings will be vaccinated through health authority program



# QUESTIONS