

Health Canada has approved the COVID-19 [bivalent Moderna booster](#). This vaccine targets the original SARS-CoV-2 virus from 2019 and the Omicron (BA.1) variant, and is authorized for use as a booster dose in 12-17 years olds who are clinically extremely vulnerable and everyone 18 years and older. Clinical trial results showed that a booster dose of the bivalent Moderna Spikevax vaccine triggers a strong immune response against both Omicron (BA.1) and the original SARS-CoV-2 virus strain. The booster was also found to generate a good immune

response against the Omicron BA.4 and BA.5 subvariants, and is expected to extend the durability of protection. Doses will be [available by appointment](#) at community pharmacies or Island Health vaccination clinics. The Government of British Columbia (BC) has also provided recent [guidance on timing](#) of the booster doses that helps to clarify the dose intervals for all populations. Should family physicians want to be directly involved in supporting at immunization sites, please send an email to credentialing_office@islandhealth.ca to express your interest.



The Government of British Columbia (BC) is finalizing plans for the 2022/23 Influenza vaccination campaign. Dr. Mike Benusic, Medical Health Officer (MHO) at Island Health, recently shared that the vaccine will have universal eligibility and be open to anyone at least 6 months of age. In addition to community pharmacies and primary care physician offices, doses will be available through COVID-19 vaccination sites this season so people will have the opportunity to receive concurrent influenza and COVID-19 booster shots (or either/both alone if they choose). A Medical Health Officer letter will be sent later this month to outline the process for ordering influenza vaccine for your practice. As always, we are particularly interested in the following populations to be vaccinated against influenza:

1. Based on risk to self: age >65, age <5, clinically vulnerable, indigenous
2. Transmission to others: healthcare workers

Island Health Region Total COVID-19 Vaccines Administered To Date	% Population Immunized (12+) 2nd Dose To Date	% Population Immunized (5+) 2nd Dose To Date	% Population Immunized (12+) Two Doses & Boosters To Date
2,134,139	94.0%	91.2%	67.0%

NEW RESOURCES

New: [BCCDC Healthcare Provider Q&As for Under 5 COVID-19 Vaccination](#)

- Healthcare provider Q&As on the COVID-19 mRNA vaccine for children 6 months to 4 years from the BCCDC website.

NEW: [BCCDC Practice Tool #3 – Drug-Drug Interactions and Contraindications](#) – Sept. 6th

- New guidance on managing patients with unknown renal function or where no recent laboratory work is available, and Appendix with practical information regarding ordering STAT serum creatinine at LifeLabs (see last 2 pages).

Updated: [BCCDC Table of COVID-19 Vaccines Authorized for Use in Canada](#) – Aug 25th

- The information in this table is a quick reference for health care providers only and is not meant to replace the guidelines found in the [BC Immunization Manual, Part 4](#) – Biological Products. Note that information for the Medicago COVID-19 vaccine has not been included.

[Past Issues of the Island Health Primary Care Update](#)

BCCDC Resources:

- [New Today](#): This section of the website highlights the latest guidance documents and updates to the website for health professionals.
- [About the vaccines](#)
- [Resources for Health Professionals](#)
- [Reporting adverse events](#)

Doctors of BC:

- [Info for doctors getting or giving the vaccine](#)
- [Updated toolkit for doctors' offices](#)

Frequently Asked Questions:

- [ImmunizeBC FAQ](#)