

Fall Booster Campaign Technical Briefing for Media September 6, 2022

Dr. Bonnie Henry
BC Provincial Health Officer



Stay Informed Via These Resources:
gov.bc.ca/Covid-19 | bccdc.ca | 1-888-COVID19

Symptom Self-Assessment:
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 ≥ 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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BRITISH
COLUMBIA

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 NOT 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

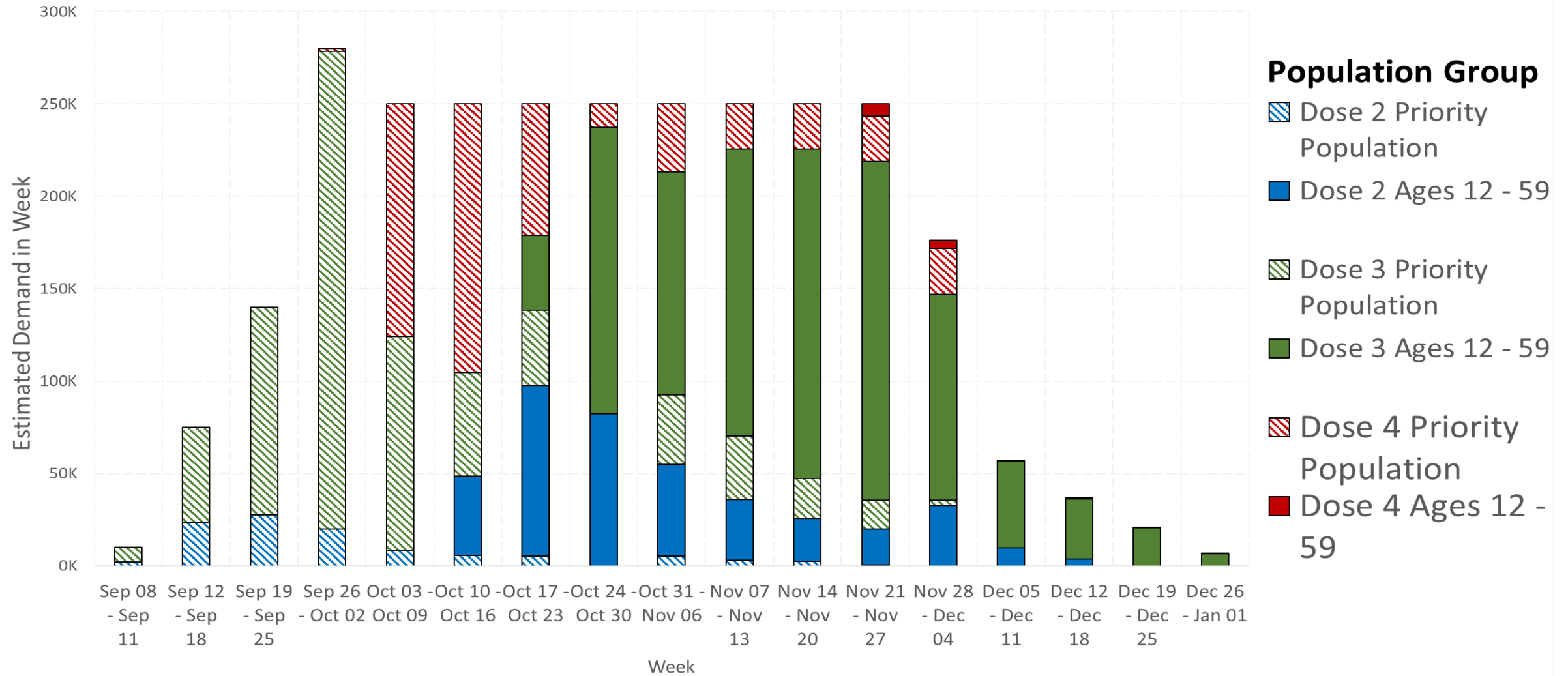


Prioritization of Invites

- 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