

# **COVID-19 Vaccine Co-administration and Preferential Vaccine Recommendation for those 12-24 years of age**

## **Update to York Region health care providers as of October 12, 2021**

Recently, the National Advisory Committee on Immunization (NACI) and Ontario's Ministry of Health issued updated recommendations for COVID-19 vaccines in Ontario.

- 1. Update on co-administration of COVID-19 vaccines**
- 2. Preferential vaccine recommendation for individuals 12 to 24 years of age**

### **1. Co-administration of COVID-19 vaccines**

As a precaution when COVID-19 vaccines were first being used, NACI previously recommended that COVID-19 vaccines be given at least 28 days before and 14 days after other vaccines.

After reviewing the evolving evidence on COVID-19 vaccines and considering the extensive data and experience of giving other routine vaccines at the same time or within days of each other, NACI has determined that this precautionary approach is no longer necessary.

On September 28, 2021, [NACI updated their recommendation](#) to state that **COVID-19 vaccines may be given at the same time as, or any time before or after, other vaccines, including live, non-live, adjuvanted, and non-adjuvanted vaccines.**

This is especially important as we will enter flu season in Ontario and begin the annual Universal Influenza Immunization Program (UIIP). Please take opportunities to vaccinate for flu and COVID-19 together when possible. This is also important for other routine vaccines as part of Ontario's Routine Immunization Schedule, to maintain up-to-date vaccinations for your clients for other vaccine-preventable diseases.

It is currently not known if the reactogenicity of COVID-19 vaccine is increased with concomitant administration. While no specific safety concerns have been identified for various concomitant administration regimens that may occur, there is potential for increased reactogenicity with concomitant administration of COVID-19 vaccines with other vaccines, particularly those known to be more reactogenic, such as newer adjuvanted vaccines.

### **2. Preferential vaccine recommendation for individuals 12 to 24 years of age**

On September 29, 2021, the Ministry of Health updated their [COVID-19 Vaccine Information Sheet for Youth \(age 12-17\)](#). In this update, the Ministry includes a **preferential recommendation for the use of Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine for individuals 12-24 years of age (including those turning 12 in 2021).**

This recommendation stems from an observed increase in the number of reports in Ontario of pericarditis/myocarditis following vaccination with Moderna relative to Pfizer-BioNTech in the 18 to 24 year old age group, particularly among males.

If an individual in this age group received Moderna COVID-19 vaccine as their first dose, they should receive Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine as their second dose where possible.



Further information on trends in myocarditis/pericarditis following mRNA vaccines in Ontario are summarized in an enhanced epidemiologic summary from [Public Health Ontario](#).

The Public Health Ontario summary states that the reporting rate of myocarditis/pericarditis was higher following the second dose of mRNA vaccine than after the first dose, particularly for those receiving the Moderna vaccine as the second dose of the series (regardless of the product received for the first dose).

The reporting rate for the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine was 6.4 per million doses administered following first dose and 8.7 per million doses administered following second dose, for all age groups and genders combined. Meanwhile, the reporting rate for the Moderna vaccine was 6.6 per million doses administered following first dose and 28.2 per million doses administered following second dose, for all age groups and genders combined.

The highest reporting rate of myocarditis/pericarditis was observed in males aged 18-24 years following the second dose. After second doses, the reporting rate in this group following the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine was 37.4 per million doses compared to 263.2 per million doses following the Moderna vaccine.

### **Contact York Region Public Health**

If you have any questions, health care providers can call our dedicated line at 1-877-464-9675 ext. 77280 (8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday to Friday) and visit [york.ca/healthprofessionals](http://york.ca/healthprofessionals)

Please share [york.ca/COVID19Vaccine](http://york.ca/COVID19Vaccine) for more information on COVID-19 vaccines, including clinics where your patients can get vaccinated today.