



Hamilton

Hamilton Public Health Services
Vaccine Program
110 King Street West, 2nd Floor, Hamilton, ON L8P 4S6
Phone: 905-540-5250 • Fax: 905-546-4841
www.hamilton.ca/vaccines

MEDICAL ADVISORY
COVID-19 Vaccine Supply Interruption - Moderna for ages 6 months to 5 years

TO: Family Physicians
Emergency Departments
Infectious Disease Physicians
LTCH Administrators/Directors of Care
Medical Laboratories
Infection Control Professionals (**please inform Labs**)

FOR YOUR INFORMATION:

Central West Medical Officers of Health
Academy of Medicine
Dr. Michael Stacey, VP Medical, Hamilton Health Sciences
Mr. Bruce Squires, President, McMaster Children's Hospital
Dr. Sarah Jarman, Chief of Staff, St. Joseph's Healthcare
Dr. Greg Rutledge, Deputy Chief of Staff, St. Joseph's Healthcare
LHIN, Dr. Jennifer Everson, Primary Care Lead and Dr. Bill Krizmanich, Emergency Department Lead.

FROM: Dr. Bart Harvey, Associate Medical Officer of Health, Hamilton Public Health Services

DATE: March 2, 2023

This advisory provides information regarding the supply of Infant Moderna COVID-19 Vaccine (6months to 5 years). Beginning on March 9, 2023, there is an anticipated temporary interruption in the supply of this product. This interruption is expected to last 6 weeks.

Infant Pfizer-BioNTech will continue to be available during this time frame for age group, however it requires a 3 dose primary series so relies on an additional commitment from parents, caregivers and practitioners to receive a completed series.

In planning for this interruption in supply, the following options can be considered for those that wish to receive COVID-19 vaccination for their children:

For those that are initiating a primary series (1st dose):

- **Receive initial dose of Moderna for ages 6 months – 5 years before March 9, 2023 or consider delaying initiation of the series:** Based on personal assessment of risk of exposure to COVID-19, parents/caregivers can consider accessing first dose before Mar 9, 2023 or waiting until supply is restored to initiate vaccination for their child. A completed primary series with Moderna for this age range is a 2-dose series over a recommended interval of 56 days.
- **Initiate a primary series with Pfizer for ages 6 months – 5 years.** Please be aware that for this product, a completed primary series requires 3 doses over a total recommended interval of 112 days to complete the series.

For those that have received their first dose of Infant Moderna Vaccine:

- **Delay receipt of the second dose of vaccine until supply is restored:** This is a feasible and safe option. A delayed dose remains valid and does not require an additional dose.
- **Eligible individuals can consider receiving a dose prior to March 9, 2023 on an accelerated schedule.** As long as the minimal interval of 28 days has been met, an accelerated schedule may be preferred in certain circumstances such as for individuals that are immunocompromised or require immunization prior to travel.
- **Consider receiving a Pfizer-BioNTech dose during the interruption in supply.** It is preferred that individuals complete a primary series with the same product. A follow-up dose of Pfizer after an initial dose of Moderna is considered valid, however completion of a primary series would require a third dose of either Moderna or Pfizer.

Public Health Services Mobile clinics, select pharmacies and primary care locations continue to provide vaccination services for ages 6 months and older. Please visit www.hamilton.ca/coronavirus for more information about COVID vaccine availability in Hamilton.

Resources

1. COVID-19 Vaccine Relevant Information and Planning Resources - https://www.health.gov.on.ca/en/pro/programs/publichealth/coronavirus/docs/vaccine/COVID-19_vaccine_administration.pdf