

December 21, 2021

MEMO TO: Public Health Units, Hospitals, Pharmacies and Primary Care Providers

FROM: Alison Blair
Associate Deputy Minister, Pandemic Response and Recovery

SUBJECT: **COVID-19 Vaccine Inventory Update**

In response to the new COVID-19 Omicron variant, Ontario is accelerating the 18+ vaccine booster campaign and has asked all partners to ramp up their capacity to administer booster vaccinations. Clinics, pharmacies, primary care offices and mobile teams are ramping up across the province, with the number of doses administered on December 17, 2021, exceeding 160,000. There has been a corresponding significant draw across all channels on mRNA vaccine inventory over the past five days in Ontario.

While the Ministry has a strong supply of mRNA vaccine and has enough vaccine to offer every Ontarian interested in a primary or booster dose vaccine, there is limited supply of the adult (12+) Pfizer-BioNTech Comirnaty vaccine in Canada. As of December 17, the Ministry of Health has allocated all available adult Pfizer-BioNTech Comirnaty supply to Ontario's vaccination channels. Every effort was made to distribute across all channels. The Ministry of Health is working with Federal partners and requested a significant amount of Pfizer supply for the new year.

As recommended by the National Advisory Committee on Immunization, mRNA vaccines can be used interchangeably, and patients are encouraged to get whichever booster is available, because they both protect them from the Omicron variant, and waiting for a preferred vaccine could put their health and families at risk. Moderna Spikevax (100 mcg) induces somewhat higher antibody levels compared to Pfizer-BioNTech Comirnaty (30 mcg). Protection against infection and severe disease from a primary series (dose one and two) with Moderna Spikevax (100 mcg) may be more durable than Pfizer-BioNTech Comirnaty (30 mcg).

All partners will need to manage their vaccine inventory to prioritize use of Pfizer-BioNTech Comirnaty vaccine for people aged 12-29 until new supply is confirmed. As a result, all vaccine administrators are encouraged to use Moderna Spikevax as a third dose booster for people age 30 and older.

Moving forward, the ministry will support all vaccine allocation requests with Moderna Spikevax until the provincial Pfizer-BioNTech Comirnaty vaccine supply has been replenished through the federal allocation process. The adult Pfizer-BioNTech Comirnaty vaccine will be removed from the ordering portal. Please continue to place orders in the online portal. Please email the Logistics and Inventory Management team at covid.logistics@ontario.ca if you have any additional questions.

The Ministry will continue to work with all delivery channels to provide updates when the supply of Pfizer-BioNTech Comirnaty vaccine is confirmed for January 2022. We will keep you informed of any additional changes to the COVID-19 inventory landscape as more information becomes available.

Thank you again for your unwavering and inspiring dedication to Ontario's COVID-19 vaccine campaign. We look forward to continuing work in partnership to support the accelerated COVID-19 booster doses for newly eligible populations.

Sincerely,

Original signed by

Alison Blair
Associate Deputy Minister
Pandemic Response and Recovery
Ministry of Health

Cc:

Dr. Kieran Moore, Chief Medical Officer of Health, Office of Chief Medical Officer of Health, Public Health, Ministry of Health

Dr. Daniel Warshafsky, Associate Chief Medical Officer of Health, Office of Chief Medical Officer of Health, Public Health, Ministry of Health

Tim Lewis, Assistant Deputy Minister, Vaccine Strategy, Implementation, and Performance, Ministry of Health