

Thursday September 28, 2023 - Please see below summary of NB Vaccine News

1. COVID-19 Immunization Program: Reminders and Updates

Reminders:

- We want to draw your attention to the vaccine news that was sent on [September 22nd](#). It contains essential details shared during our last immunization team meeting regarding the upcoming fall launch dates and program information.
- The last day for vaccinations of the current Monovalent and BA. 4/5 vaccines is October 11th, 2023. **Please ensure those vaccines are destroyed** in preparation for the new Moderna XBB1.5 vaccine that can be administered starting October 16, 2023.
- There should not be any clinics booked for bivalent or monovalent infant **after October 11th.**
- We understand that this may raise questions among the public or parents, which is why we have included information in the email sent Sept 22nd to help address any concerns.

Updates:

- **Our communication team will release a public message, scheduled on October 11th.** This message will provide the general public with information on the XBB.1.5 vaccines, ensuring that everyone is well-informed including the start of the fall immunization campaign on October 16th.
- After this announcement, the scheduler will be open for bookings to start on October 16th with Moderna XBB.1.5.
- The [COVID-19 vaccine info sheet](#) will be available to the public online after public announcement.
- Revisions to the [NB Respiratory vaccine guide](#), section on COVID-19 vaccines, will follow and be available online prior to October 16th. We would like to remind immunizers and providers to become familiar with this guide and its information.

2. Important Changes to the COVID-19 consent form

We would like to inform you of important changes regarding COVID-19 vaccine consent forms. We have discontinued the use of the older long-formatted consent forms with pre-immunization questionnaire for several reasons (listed below). It is essential that everyone is up to date with the latest information to provide accurate and comprehensive vaccine information to their patients and that an informed consent process is in place in various types of clinic settings for all administered vaccines.

- Initially, COVID-19 vaccines brought about numerous changes, making the process of obtaining informed consent quite complex. Over time, the pre-immunization questions have stabilized and remained consistent for mRNA vaccines over the last two years.
- As we transition back to pre-pandemic levels of vaccine operations, the Department of Health previously was not providing pre-immunization questions or consent forms for Influenza or Pneumococcal vaccines. It was provided during the pandemic due to rapidly changing information and complexities.
- All immunizers are expected to meet the competency requirement of understanding the product being administered, including precautions and contraindications, and the screening questions essential for safe vaccination.
- Just as we have a section in the [Respiratory guide](#) for Influenza and Pneumococcal vaccines where we list precautions and information in a Q&A format, we do the same for COVID-19 vaccines. This helps to ensure that all immunizers administering COVID-19 vaccines have access to the most current and essential information, including where to find the latest updates.
- Finally, the [COVID-19 Vaccine Information Sheet](#) produced from Public Health explain both the benefits and risks of the vaccine to recipients including additional information needed prior to receiving a COVID-19 vaccine. **Healthcare providers should be providing and reviewing this fact sheet with their client prior to their appointment.**

The updated vaccine administration form can be found on the page: [Communicable Disease Control Resources for Health Care Professionals \(gnb.ca\)](#).