

### IMPORTANT UPDATES ON COVID-19

**To:** Physicians, Nurse Practitioners, Nurses, and Midwives  
Hospital Infection Control Departments and Emergency Departments

#### **Ontario Issues Preferential Recommendation for Pfizer-BioNTech for Those 18-24**

Ontario is issuing a preferential recommendation of the use of Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine for individuals aged 18-24 years old effective immediately based on the current available analysis from Ontario's adverse events following immunization (AEFI) surveillance system.

This recommendation was based on the advice of Ontario's Children Covid-19 Vaccine Table, Ontario Vaccine Clinical Advisory Group, and Public Health Ontario and is due to an observed increase in Ontario of the very rare heart condition called pericarditis/myocarditis following vaccination with Moderna compared to Pfizer in the 18 to 24 year old age group, particularly among males. The majority of reported cases have been mild with individuals recovering quickly, normally with anti-inflammatory medication. Symptoms have typically been reported to start within one week after vaccination, more commonly after the second dose.

Should individuals aged 18 to 24-year old wish to receive Moderna, they can continue to do so with informed consent. Ontario will continue using the Pfizer vaccine for youth ages 12-17 (including those turning 12 in 2021).

#### **NACI Updates Recommendations on Concomitant Administration of COVID-19 Vaccines with Non-COVID-19 Vaccines**

[NACI has determined that a precautionary approach is no longer necessary / French Version](#) and recommends that **COVID-19 vaccines may be administered concomitantly with, or at any time before or after non-COVID-19 vaccines**, including live, non-live, adjuvanted, or unadjuvanted vaccines. The Chief Medical Officer of Health for Ontario has endorsed this practice. See attached letter for reference.

Informed consent should include a discussion about the limited data available, as well as the benefits and potential risks of administering a COVID-19 and non-COVID-19 vaccine at the same time. 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.

#### **Referrals for Patients with Adverse Events**

Please see the link below for a resource for practitioners looking to refer a patient who has had an adverse event following immunization. The Special Immunization Clinic prioritizes patients who acute onset hypersensitivity reactions, neurologic events, coagulation disorders, cardiac events, organ dysfunction, events causing absenteeism, and/or hospitalization.

<https://cirnetwork.ca/sic-network-patient-referrals/>

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact your local Timiskaming Health Unit:

#### **Monday to Friday**

**8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.**

#### **New Liskeard**

Tel: (705) 647-4305

Toll Free: (866) 747-4305

Fax: (705) 647-5779

#### **Kirkland Lake**

Tel: (705) 567-9355

Toll Free: (866) 967-9355

Fax: (705) 567-5476

#### **After-Hours or Weekend On-Call Number**

(705) 647-3033

[www.timiskaminghu.com](http://www.timiskaminghu.com)