



Policy: COVID-19 Vaccine Eligibility Policy for Individuals Residing in Nova Scotia with Non-Health Canada Authorized and/or Janssen COVID-19 vaccines

Originating Branch: Office of the Chief Medical Officer of Health

Original Approval Date: August 19, 2021 **Effective Date:** August 20, 2021

Approved By:

Dr. Robert Strang, Chief Medical Officer of Health, Health and Wellness

Version: New

1. POLICY STATEMENT

- 1.1. The Department of Health and Wellness (DHW) recognizes individuals are presenting in Nova Scotia with proof of COVID-19 vaccination from the country where they were vaccinated.
- 1.2. The immunogenicity, efficacy and effectiveness of authorized COVID-19 vaccines vary.
- 1.3. It is recognized that individuals remaining in Nova Scotia for an extended time (to live, work or study) are more likely to live in congregate settings or work in settings where they can transmit COVID-19.
- 1.4. DHW is committed to ensuring individuals remaining in Nova Scotia for an extended time are optimally protected with safe and effective authorized COVID-19 vaccines.
- 1.5. Providing immunization to residents of Nova Scotia is a responsibility shared between the Department of Health and Wellness (DHW), the Nova Scotia Health Authority (NSHA), the Izaak Walton Killam Health Centre (IWK), primary care providers and health care organizations.
- 1.6. DHW provides policies, standards and guidelines for vaccine programs.
- 1.7. NSHA, the IWK, primary care practitioners and health care organizations implement the programs to Nova Scotians in adherence with those policies, standards and guidelines.

2. DEFINITIONS

- 2.1. **Extended time:** Individuals remaining in Nova Scotia for two months or longer.
- 2.2. **Variants of concern:** A virus that has both changed and created some concern because it may spread easier; may make people sicker; may impact vaccine effectiveness or may require different treatments.

3. POLICY OBJECTIVES

- 3.1. To optimize protection against COVID-19 disease for individuals in Nova Scotia.

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Authorized and Janssen COVID-19 Vaccines

- 3.2. To ensure COVID-19 disease protection for individuals residing in Nova Scotia for an extended time and for those with whom they interact, particularly with regard to variants of concern.
- 3.3. To limit the reactogenicity by minimizing the number of additional doses of COVID-19 vaccine provided, recognizing the safety and reactogenicity of extra doses is not yet studied for a number of these vaccines.

4. APPLICATION

- 4.1. This policy applies to all public health and other immunization providers who provide COVID-19 vaccines.

5. POLICY DIRECTIVES

- 5.1 Individuals residing in Nova Scotia for an extended time and who have received one or two doses of a non-Health Canada authorized COVID-19 vaccine are eligible to receive one additional dose of a Health Canada authorized mRNA vaccine at least 28 days after their last dose of COVID-19 vaccine.
- 5.2 Individuals residing in Nova Scotia for an extended time and who have received one dose of Janssen (Johnson & Johnson) COVID-19 vaccine are eligible to receive one dose of a Health Canada authorized mRNA vaccine at least 28 days after their last dose of COVID-19 vaccine.
- 5.3 Individuals who are residing in Nova Scotia for an extended period of time who have not received any COVID-19 vaccine doses are eligible to receive two doses of a Health Canada authorized mRNA COVID-19 vaccine.
- 5.4 Individuals who have previously received three doses of any COVID-19 vaccine are not eligible for additional COVID-19 vaccine doses.
- 5.5 Individuals who are residing in Nova Scotia for an extended time, and who do not have a Nova Scotia health card, are eligible to receive COVID-19 vaccine in accordance with the criteria as above.

6. POLICY GUIDELINES

- 6.1. This policy will be reassessed based on emerging evidence of COVID-19 vaccine immunogenicity, efficacy and effectiveness.

7. ACCOUNTABILITY

- 7.1. DHW is responsible to ensure the policy is current, evidence informed and reviewed as evidence emerges.
- 7.2. The NSHA and the IWK are accountable to ensure this policy is communicated to public health staff and other immunization providers within NSHA and the IWK respectively.
- 7.3. Public Health staff and other healthcare providers who provide publicly funded immunizations are responsible for adhering to this policy.

8. MONITORING / OUTCOME MEASUREMENT

- 8.1. DHW is responsible for defining and monitoring strategic outcomes associated with this policy.

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8.2. The NSHA and the IWK are responsible for monitoring the implementation of this policy.

9. REPORTS

9.1. N/A

10. REFERENCES

- 10.1. Health Canada (August 6, 2021). *COVID-19 Vaccines and Treatments Portal: List of vaccines and treatments for COVID-19*. Retrieved from: <https://covid-vaccine.canada.ca/>
- 10.2. Public Health Agency of Canada (August 17, 2021). *COVID-19: Recommendations for those vaccinated with vaccines not authorized by Health Canada for those staying in Canada to live, work or study*. Retrieved from: <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/diseases/2019-novel-coronavirus-infection/guidance-documents/recommendations-those-vaccinated-with-vaccines-not-authorized-health-canada-staying-canada-live-work-study.html>

11. APPENDICES

- 11.1. Optimizing Protection against COVID-19 for Individuals Residing in Nova Scotia with Non-Health Canada Authorized and Janssen COVID-19 Vaccines

12. VERSION CONTROL

Version:	New Policy
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13. INQUIRIES

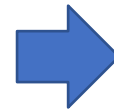
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Appendix A: Optimizing Protection against COVID-19 for Individuals Residing in Nova Scotia with Non-Health Canada Authorized and/or Janssen COVID-19 Vaccines

Individual clinical assessment is required to determine validity of doses and subsequent vaccine recommendations.

Individuals who have received:

- One or two doses of a non-Health Canada authorized COVID-19 vaccine and are within the authorized age group.



Individuals are eligible for:

- One additional dose of a Health Canada authorized mRNA vaccine at least 28 days after their last dose of COVID-19 vaccine.

Individuals who have received:

- One dose of Janssen (Johnson & Johnson) COVID-19 vaccine, and are within the authorized age group



Individuals are eligible for:

- One additional dose of a Health Canada authorized mRNA vaccine at least 28 days after their last dose of COVID-19 vaccine.

Individuals who have not received any COVID-19 vaccine doses.



Individuals are eligible for:

- Two doses of a Health Canada authorized mRNA vaccine.

Individuals who have received:

- Three doses of any COVID-19 vaccine



Individuals are eligible for:

- No additional doses of COVID-19 vaccine.