

MEMO

Date: July 29, 2021

To: All PHIMS Immunization Users

From: Dr. Richard Baydack, Director Communicable Disease Control, Manitoba Health and Seniors care;

Dr. Tim Hilderman, Medical Officer of Health, Manitoba Health and Seniors Care;

Kathy Koschik, Manager, Public Health Systems, Digital Health, Shared Health;

RE: **PHIMS Forecaster Update - COVID-19 Vaccines**

PHIMS forecaster changes went live July 15, 2021, for COVID-19 vaccines. The changes allow for interchangeability between mRNA and viral vector products. The Recommended (Due) and Overdue intervals for second doses have been shortened to align with the National Advisory Committee on Immunization (NACI) immunization schedule.

Key updates:

- Two valid doses of any combination of vaccines will be considered a complete series.
- Specific forecast and validation rules were added to create product-specific forecasts.
- Clients who receive an invalid dose will be forecasted to repeat the dose based on the *invalid dose date* and *vaccine product* that was received.
- The minimum interval between Pfizer and Moderna doses is 21 days, changed from the previous rules that forecasted 19 days between doses. Some doses may be invalid as a result of this change.

Clients who received their vaccine doses prior to this forecaster change have had their forecast refreshed (recalculated). PHIMS users can also click the “Refresh Forecast” button at any time to recalculate a client’s forecast (as shown below).



The forecaster rules are posted on the PHIMS website in the 9.0 Forecaster folder and can be found here: [Forecaster Rules](#).

Refer to the Manitoba COVID-19 Vaccine: Clinical Practice Guidelines for Immunizers and Health Care Providers for additional information about dose intervals:

https://www.gov.mb.ca/asset_library/en/covidvaccine/clinical_practice_guidelines.pdf

Guidance for managing inadvertent vaccine errors

The Guidance Document on the Management of Inadvertent Vaccine Errors (May 25, 2021) was adapted from the Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC) and is included as Appendix D in the *Manitoba COVID-19 Vaccine: Clinical Practice Guidelines for Immunizers and Health Care Providers*, posted at:

https://www.gov.mb.ca/asset_library/en/covidvaccine/clinical_practice_guidelines.pdf

PHIMS forecast/validation rules are the best practice intervals, while the PHAC guidance is meant to help manage out-of-the norm scenarios that may have occurred. PHIMS does not necessarily reflect PHAC's guidance for error management, since PHAC is allowing some additional leeway where it is reasonable to use an even shorter interval.

Examples where PHIMS and PHAC guidance differ:

- The recommended minimum interval for optimal immune response is 28 days following a dose of AstraZeneca/COVISHIELD, so PHIMS requires 28 days between doses. However, PHAC notes that if the second dose was inadvertently administered at least 21 days after the first, the second dose can be considered valid.
- Moderna is authorized for use in clients aged 18 years and up, so the minimum age for Moderna in PHIMS is 18 years, but if a dose was inadvertently administered to a client at least 16 years of age PHAC will allow immunization providers to consider this dose valid.

Overriding Doses to Valid

Overriding a dose to valid is a clinical decision that should be made on a client-by-client basis, considering all available information and consulting other providers where necessary to confirm the vaccination history. Immunization providers who determine that a COVID vaccine dose should be considered valid, are recommended to refer to the *Guidance Document on the Management of Inadvertent Vaccine Errors*, which can be found in *Manitoba COVID-19 Vaccine: Clinical Practice Guidelines for Immunizers and Health Care Providers (Appendix D)*, and include a comment in the corresponding PHIMS immunization record to explain the rationale for the override.

PHIMS Immunization roles include the ability to override a dose to valid. Complete a full clinical analysis before overriding a dose. [QRC 2.6](#) outlines the steps in PHIMS.

Need support?

Shared Health users who require support with PHIMS access or with the PHIMS software application should contact the Shared Health Service Desk:

Email: servicedesk@sharedhealthmb.ca

Phone: (204) 940-8500, **Toll free:** 1-866-999-9698

For urgent matters, please call the Service Desk and speak with an agent to escalate your request.