

# MEMO

**Date:** February 18, 2022

**To:** All PHIMS Immunization Users

**From:** Lynda Tjaden, Executive Director, Health, Seniors and Active Living;  
Dr. Carol Kurbis, Medical Officer of Health, Health, Seniors and Active Living;  
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Dr. Richard Baydack, Director, Communicable Disease Control, Health, Seniors and Active Living  
Clare Hargrave, COVID-19 Provincial Immunization Lead, Shared Health  
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**RE:** International COVID-19 Vaccine and Monoclonal Antibody Doses in PHIMS

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International COVID-19 vaccines and monoclonal antibody (MAB) treatments can be entered into PHIMS using the “Add Historical” function. **PHIMS users should only enter these doses if it is part of their scope of work.** All PHIMS Immunization users should be aware that these doses will display on clients’ immunization records.

## **International COVID-19 vaccines**

*International COVID-19 vaccines* refer to vaccines that are not approved for use in Canada, but could be in use in other countries. Numerous COVID-19 vaccines are in use or being developed for use outside of Canada. These vaccines may also be referred to as vaccines that have “not been approved for use in Canada by Health Canada”.

Six (6) international COVID-19 vaccines are currently configured in PHIMS with more expected to be added in the coming months:

- COVID19-Convidecia (Ad5-nCov)
- COVID19-Coronavac/Sinovac
- COVID19-Covovax/Novovax\*
- COVID19-Covaxin
- COVID19-Sinopharm/BIBP
- COVID19-Sputnik V

\*PHIMS will be updated in the coming weeks to reflect Health Canada’s approval that was announced on Feb 17, 2022.

**Important Note:** The Vaccine Implementation Task Force has advised that there has been a significant increase in falsified immunization records being submitted for entry into PHIMS.

Please advise clients who present COVID-19 immunization records from another jurisdiction or country to follow the process identified on the Government of Manitoba website at <https://manitoba.ca/covid19/vaccine/snowbirds.html>, where clients must complete and submit the online eform (<https://forms.gov.mb.ca/covid-immunization-record-request/>) along with a copy of their immunization record. This will allow for the record to be validated by the Quality Assurance department and entered into PHIMS.

### Validation and Forecast

The minimum interval between an international COVID-19 vaccine and a vaccine administered in Manitoba is 28 days.

Different International COVID-19 vaccines may have different dosing schedules. The PHIMS validation rules were established to allow for a variety of international administration practices. There is no specified minimum age for the international COVID-19 vaccines, and no minimum interval between international COVID-19 doses.

As outlined by the [Public Health Agency of Canada on August 17, 2021](#), *“individuals planning to stay in Canada for longer periods of time (i.e., to live, work or study in Canada) who have received one or two doses of a non-Health Canada authorized vaccine should be offered one additional dose of an mRNA vaccine soon after arrival in Canada.”*

A forecast for COVID19-Pfizer vaccine will appear on a client’s record when one or two international COVID vaccines are recorded. Both mRNA products (COVID19-Pfizer and COVID19-Moderna) will be validated.

Clients who have international COVID-19 vaccine doses on their records will be “series complete” when they have received:

- one international dose with one mRNA dose (Pfizer or Moderna) given at least 28 days later, or
- two international doses with one mRNA dose (Pfizer or Moderna) given at least 28 days later, or
- three international doses.

AstraZeneca and Janssen vaccines will not complete the series when a client has received an international COVID vaccine.

Once a client completes their series, the minimum interval for any further doses (any product) is 28 days.

### **Monoclonal Antibody Treatments**

Monoclonal Antibody (MAB) treatments are given by referral to clients who meet the required criteria. Information is available at <https://sharedhealthmb.ca/covid19/mab/>.

PHIMS users may see these products on a client’s immunization record:

- COVID19-MAB Casirivimab and Imdevimab
- COVID19-MAB Sotrovimab

MAB products are not the same as COVID-19 vaccines. Monoclonal antibody treatment provides passive immunity by delivering laboratory-made antibodies intravenously to an individual. MAB products and COVID-19 vaccines are associated to different antigens in PHIMS, which distinguishes them in immunization reports. MAB is associated to the SARS-CoV-2 *antibody*, while vaccines utilize the SARS-CoV-2 *antigen*.

### Validation and Forecast

Immunizers should be aware of the required separation between MAB treatments and COVID-19 vaccine doses. The Forecaster may be updated at a later date to highlight the required separation intervals.

**Need support?**

If you require support with PHIMS access or PHIMS software related issues, please email the Shared Health Service Desk at: [servicedesk@sharedhealthmb.ca](mailto:servicedesk@sharedhealthmb.ca) (please state “PHIMS” in the subject line of the email).

For urgent matters contact the Service Desk by phone and speak with an agent to escalate your request.

Phone: (204) 940-8500

Toll-free: 1-866-999-9698

Please consult with a local peer supporter or trainer before logging any service requests.