



COVID-19 Update for CDHA Members February 24, 2022

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Dear member,

Health Canada authorizes the use of Novavax's Nuvaxovid COVID-19 Vaccine

On February 17, Health Canada authorized Novavax's Nuvaxovid COVID-19 vaccine for the prevention of COVID-19 in individuals 18 years and older. Nuvaxovid is a [protein subunit vaccine](#). This type of vaccine contains harmless and purified proteins of the virus which have been specifically selected for their ability to trigger immunity. Nuvaxovid is administered as a two-dose regimen, 21 days apart. Clinical trials have demonstrated that it is 90% effective at preventing symptomatic COVID-19 and 100% effective at preventing severe disease. Read [NACI recommendations on the use of Novavax's Nuvaxovid](#).

Risk of myocarditis post vaccine dose

[Research](#) compiled from December 2020 to August 2021 details who is at risk, and what that risk is, for myocarditis following mRNA vaccination for COVID-19. While males between the ages of 12-24 are at the highest risk, the incident rate per 1 million doses remains very low.

SARS-CoV-2 Omicron transmission

In a yet to be peer-reviewed [study from Denmark](#), results show that Omicron is generally 2.7-3.7 times more infectious than the Delta variant. Fully vaccinated and booster-vaccinated individuals are generally slightly less susceptible to infection compared to unvaccinated individuals. However, there are some concerns about the longevity of the booster response. Both a primary series and a booster dose are more likely to play an important role in reducing COVID-19 transmission, in the short term, and reducing the severity of the infection.

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Benefits of 3 doses of mRNA COVID-19 vaccine and symptomatic infections

[Research](#) that included 70,155 COVID-19 tests from symptomatic adults (18 years and older) conducted between December 10, 2021, and January 01, 2022, showed that individuals that had received 3 doses of mRNA COVID-19 vaccine (compared with unvaccinated and recipients of 2 doses only) were less likely to test positive to SARS-CoV-2 when compared with test-negative controls. These findings suggest that individuals that received 3 doses of mRNA COVID-19 vaccines are better protected against both Omicron and Delta variants, although the higher odds ratios for Omicron suggest less protection for the Omicron compared to the Delta variant.

Risk of a second allergic reaction to COVID-19 vaccines

This [systematic review](#) and meta-analysis comprised of 22 studies and 1,366 patients that underwent revaccination under the supervision of an allergist showed a very low risk to a severe immediate allergic reaction during the administration of the second dose of mRNA vaccine among the individuals that had an immediate reaction to their first dose. It is encouraged that individuals in this situation consult a qualified health professional prior to getting vaccinated a second time.

A reminder that CDHA's member and family assistance program with [Homewood Health](#) is available with resources and counselling if you are struggling during these very difficult times.

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*Please be well and take care of yourselves in this difficult time.
Everyone can do their part to slow COVID-19.*