

## Management of COVID-19 Vaccine Administration Errors and Deviations

Revised March 31, 2023

This table provides guidance and recommendations for immunization providers when immunization errors/deviations have occurred involving COVID-19 vaccine. These recommendations are applicable to Alberta and may differ from other jurisdictions. Immunization providers should follow their regulatory/employer guidance for reporting vaccine administration errors.

*This policy is evergreen and will be updated as new information becomes available.*

### Minimum Spacing

Vaccine	Pfizer	Moderna	Novavax	Janssen
Minimum Spacing	19 days	21 days	21 days	28 days

Type of Error/Deviation	Administration Error/Deviations	Vaccine Product	Dose	Recommended Action
<b>Site/route</b>	Incorrect site (i.e., site other than the deltoid muscle or vastus lateralis or ventrogluteal).	<b>Any COVID-19 vaccine</b>	<b>Invalid</b>	Repeat dose on the same day. If same day not possible, repeat dose ensuring at least <a href="#">minimum spacing</a> from invalid dose.
	Incorrect route (i.e., route other than intramuscular).	<b>Any COVID-19 vaccine</b>	<b>Invalid</b>	
<b>Incorrect vaccine type, including incorrect type for age</b>	Use at a <u>younger age</u> than eligible as per the Alberta Immunization Policy (AIP).	<b>Any COVID-19 vaccine</b> administered to a child less than 6 months of age.	<b>Invalid</b>	Provide a complete primary series when the child is eligible, ensuring at least <a href="#">minimum spacing</a> from the invalid dose.
		<b>Any COVID-19 vaccine</b> intended/licensed for an older age group administered as a primary series or booster dose to a child 6 months to 17 years of age.	<b>Valid</b>	If further doses are recommended as per the AIP, provide the next dose of age appropriate COVID-19 vaccine respecting the recommended interval between doses.
	Use at an <u>older age</u> than eligible as per the AIP.	<b>Any COVID-19 vaccine</b> intended/licensed for a younger group administered as a primary series or booster dose to an individual in an older age group	<b>Invalid*</b>	Repeat dose on the same day. If same day not possible, repeat dose ensuring at least <a href="#">minimum spacing</a> from invalid dose. <b>*Exception:</b> a 50 mcg dose of Moderna original (6-11y) vaccine administered to a child 12 to 17 years of age as a primary series dose can be considered valid.
	Bivalent mRNA vaccines administered as a part of a primary series.	<b>Any bivalent COVID-19 vaccine</b> administered as a primary series dose.	<b>Valid</b>	If further doses are recommended as per the AIP, provide the next dose of age appropriate COVID-19 vaccine respecting the recommended interval between doses.

Type of Error/Deviation	Administration Error/Deviations	Vaccine Product	Dose	Recommended Action
<b>Incorrect vaccine type, including incorrect type for age (cont.)</b>	WHO approved (non Health Canada approved) vaccines - Use at <u>younger age</u> than approved by WHO.	<b>Covovax</b> vaccine administered to a child 6 months to 17 years of age.	<b>Valid</b>	Provide the next dose of COVID-19 vaccine (mRNA if under 18 years of age), respecting the recommended interval between doses.
		<b>Sinovac</b> vaccine administered to a child 3 to 17 years of age.	<b>Valid</b>	Provide the next dose of COVID-19 vaccine (mRNA if under 18 years of age), respecting the recommended interval between doses.
		<b>Sinovac</b> vaccine administered to a child 6 months to 3 years of age.	<b>Invalid</b>	Restart series with mRNA vaccine.
		<b>Sinopharm, Covaxin, Convidecia</b> administered to a child 6 months to 17 years of age.	<b>Invalid</b>	Restart series with mRNA vaccine.
<b>Intervals</b>	Immunocompetent - second or third (Pfizer 6m-4y) primary series dose administered at less than the minimal interval (including on the same day).	<b>All COVID-19 vaccines</b>	<b>Invalid</b>	Repeat dose using <u>at least</u> <a href="#">minimum spacing</a> from invalid dose.
	Immunocompromised – second, third or fourth (Pfizer 6m-4y) primary series dose administered less than the minimal interval after the previous dose (including on the same day).	<b>All COVID-19 vaccines</b>	<b>Invalid</b>	If it is the second primary series dose, repeat dose ensuring <u>at least</u> <a href="#">minimum spacing</a> from invalid dose, or If it is the third or fourth primary series dose, repeat dose ensuring <u>at least</u> 8 weeks from invalid dose.
	Booster dose(s) administered less than 28 days after the previous dose.	<b>All COVID-19 vaccines</b>	<b>Invalid</b>	Repeat dose <u>at least</u> 6 calendar months after invalid dose. See the <a href="#">AIP</a> for spacing exceptions.
<b>Mixed vaccines for primary series</b>	Mixed mRNA vaccine primary series for children 6 months to 4 years of age.	<b>Pfizer original (6m-4y) &amp; Moderna original (6m-5y)</b>	<b>Valid</b>	If two different products are administered (i.e., mixed schedule), the schedule should be as per the Pfizer schedule. <u>For immunocompetent children:</u> Dose 1: Day 0 Dose 2: 8 weeks after dose 1 Dose 3: 8 weeks after dose 2 <u>For immunocompromised children:</u> Dose 1: Day 0 Dose 2: 28 days after dose 1 Dose 3: 8 weeks after dose 2 Dose 4: 8 weeks after dose 3 Mixed primary series can be completed using either Pfizer or Moderna in any combination as long as the required number of doses above are provided.

Type of Error/Deviation	Administration Error/Deviations	Vaccine Product	Dose	Recommended Action
<b>Dosage error (but correct vaccine type)</b> (see Diluent section below for specific information regarding Pfizer-BioNTech and the diluent)	Higher-than-authorized dose volume administered.	<b>Any COVID-19 vaccine</b>	<b>Valid</b>	** Inform the recipient of the potential for local and systemic adverse events. Encourage self-monitoring and reporting. ACTIVE daily surveillance to monitor for adverse events is not required.
	Lower-than-authorized dose/volume administered (e.g., partial dosage, leaked out, equipment failure, recipient pulled away). (Scenarios not covered above in the vaccines used in <a href="#">older age</a> groups than eligible in the AIP section)	<b>Any COVID-19 vaccine</b> Any partial and <u>unknown</u> dose as part of a primary series or booster.	<b>Invalid</b>	Repeat dose on the same day. If same day not possible, repeat dose ensuring <u>at least <a href="#">minimum spacing</a></u> from invalid dose.
		<b>Any COVID-19 vaccine</b> Any partial and <u>known</u> dose as part of a primary series or booster.	<b>Invalid</b>	If a known partial dose is administered, repeat dose on same day if possible. <b>Exception</b> – if a known partial dose of Moderna is administered, offer only the remainder of the dose on the same day. If same day not possible, repeat dose ensuring <u>at least <a href="#">minimum spacing</a></u> from invalid dose.
<b>Diluent</b> Applies only to: <b>Pfizer original (12+) vaccine</b> <b>Pfizer original (5-11y) vaccine</b> <b>Pfizer original (6m-4y) vaccine</b>	Incorrect diluent type (i.e., diluent other than sterile 0.9% sodium chloride).	Contact the manufacturer for guidance on whether or not the dose is valid.		If the manufacturer cannot/does not provide information on vaccine viability, consider the dose invalid. For invalid doses, repeat dose same day or as soon as possible.
	ONLY diluent administered (i.e., sterile 0.9% sodium chloride).	No vaccine administered.	<b>Invalid</b>	Provide valid dose as soon as possible.
	More than the recommended amount of diluent used for reconstitution.	This is a partial dose.	<b>Invalid</b>	See: <a href="#">Dosage error (but correct vaccine type)</a>
	No diluent or less than the recommended amount of diluent used for reconstitution.	This results in higher than the authorized dose.	<b>Valid</b>	** Inform the recipient of the potential for local and systemic adverse events. Encourage self-monitoring and reporting. ACTIVE daily surveillance to monitor for adverse events is not required.
<b>Storage and Handling</b>	Dose administered after improper storage and handling (e.g., temperature excursion).	<b>Any COVID-19 vaccine</b> Contact the manufacturer for guidance on whether or not the dose is valid.		If the manufacturer deems the dose invalid, repeat the dose same day or as soon as possible.
	Dose administered past the expiration/beyond use date.			
<b>Vaccines received in other countries</b>	Refer to <a href="#">Defining a COVID-19 Vaccine Primary Series</a> for the list of non-Health Canada authorized COVID-19 vaccines that are currently accepted and considered valid in Alberta. See COVID-19 <a href="#">Vaccine Eligibility and Scheduling</a> .			

Adapted and based on the Public Health Agency of Canada's document "COVID-19 vaccine guide for youth and adults (12 years of age and over): managing vaccine administration errors or deviations".