

FAQ's: When should I get vaccinated after a COVID-19 Infection?

The National Advisory Committee on Immunization (NACI) and New Brunswick continues to recommend vaccination to be very important to help protect against severe outcomes from COVID-19, even for those with a prior COVID-19 infection given the anticipated benefits of better immune response and optimizing protection against severe disease and hospitalisations.

1. How strong is the protection from infection?

For variants that circulated before Omicron, some studies noted that past infection offers good protection from re-infection, but this protection decreases over time. Evidence is growing that protection in people with previous infection who have been vaccinated is stronger and longer-lasting compared to protection from infection alone.

The risk of re-infection with Omicron (among people who previously had COVID-19) is higher than the risk of reinfection from previous variants. Vaccination is expected to strengthen the response in order to provide longer-lasting protection against current and future variants. That's why complete and up-to-date COVID-19 vaccination is recommended to provide the best possible protection for the future against severe illness from COVID-19.

2. For individuals 5 years of age and older who are not vaccinated but were infected with COVID-19. When should I book the first vaccine dose?

If you or your child have not had any previous doses of a COVID-19 vaccine, you may book your/your child's first dose (**aged 5 and over**) 8 weeks after symptom onset or positive test (if asymptomatic).

3. For individuals 5 years of age and older, not considered moderately to severely immunocompromised, no history of multisystem inflammatory syndrome (MIS-C), and in between doses of their primary series of the COVID-19 vaccines (i.e.: not yet received their 2nd dose). When should I book the next vaccine dose?

It is recommended that you book the second dose **8** weeks after symptom onset or a positive COVID-19 test.

4. For individuals 5 years of age and older who require a 3-dose series, considered moderately to severely immunocompromised (indicated in the Government of New Brunswick's [Declaration of Eligibility form](#)), without a history of MIS-C, and in between doses of their primary series of the COVID-19 vaccines (i.e.: not yet received either the 2nd or the 3rd primary series dose). When should I book the next vaccine dose?

It is recommended that you book the next dose 4-8 weeks after symptom onset or a positive COVID-19 test. This applies to either a second or third dose.

- 5. For individuals 5 years of age and older with a history of MIS-C (regardless if they are healthy or immunocompromised), and in between doses of their primary series of the COVID-19 vaccines (i.e.: not yet received either the 2nd or 3rd primary series dose). When should I book the next vaccine dose?**

It is recommended that you book the next dose after recovery of the illness or over 90 days has passed since the diagnosis by the health care provider (whichever period is the longest).

- 6. For individuals aged 12 years of age and older who finished their primary series but got infected before they received the booster dose (regardless if they are healthy or immunocompromised). When should I book my booster?**

It is recommended to book your booster dose if it has been at least 5 months since the last dose of your primary series and at least 3 months after your symptoms began or after receiving a positive COVID-19 test.

- 7. For individuals who would like to receive their next vaccine dose sooner than the recommended intervals. Can I book the vaccine sooner?**

These intervals serve as a guide and should you have concerns regarding how this applies to you, please communicate with your Primary Health Care Provider. It is important to follow these intervals as much as possible given the benefits of a better immune response and protection against COVID-19.

At a minimum, symptoms of your acute illness should be completely resolved, you should not be contagious prior to vaccination (i.e. 10 days has passed since the beginning of your quarantine period) and eligible to get your next dose.