Quick Reference Guide for Offering an Additional Dose of COVID-19 Vaccine

1. **Immunocompromised Individuals**

Individuals that are moderately to severely immunocompromised will be asked to self-identify and present to a vaccine clinic or their pharmacist or physician. NACI identifies individuals that are moderately to severely immunocompromised as those with the following conditions:

o Active treatment for solid tumour or hematologic malignancies

o Receipt of solid-organ transplant and taking immunosuppressive therapy

o Receipt of chimeric antigen receptor (CAR)-T-cell therapy or hematopoietic stem cell transplant (within 2 years of transplantation or taking immunosuppression therapy)

o Moderate to severe primary immunodeficiency (e.g., DiGeorge syndrome, WiskottAldrich syndrome)

o Stage 3 or advanced untreated HIV infection and those with acquired immunodeficiency syndrome

o Active treatment with the following categories of immunosuppressive therapies: anti-B cell therapies (monoclonal antibodies targeting CD19, CD20 and CD22 ), high-dose systemic corticosteroids (The Canadian Immunization Guide defines high dose steroids treatment as prednisone equivalent of ≥ 2 mg/kg/day or 20 mg/day if weight > 10 kg, for ≥ 14 days), alkylating agents, antimetabolites, or tumor-necrosis factor (TNF) inhibitors and other biologic agents that are significantly immunosuppressive

Based on emerging evidence, NACI now recommends that individuals who are moderately or severely immunocompromised should receive:

• three doses of an authorized mRNA vaccine if they have not yet been immunized; or

• an additional dose of an authorized mRNA vaccine if they have previously received a one or two dose primary series, including those who received a mixed vaccine schedule.

For individuals who have already received a one dose or two dose primary series, the minimum interval between the last COVID-19 vaccine received and the additional dose is 28 days. Verification of the condition is not required to offer an additional dose of COVID-19 vaccine.

1. **Some individuals who MUST travel outside of Canada**

The National Advisory Committee on Immunizations supports the interchangeability between COVID-19 Vaccine products. However, at this tiem, some countries do not recognize travellers with mixed vaccine schedules as being fully vaccinated. In certain circumstances, a second dose of the same product r a third dose of COVID-19 vaccine may be offered to individuals:

* Who MUST travel for employment outside of Canada;
* Who MUST travel for a medical procedure outside of Canada;
* Who attend school outside of Canada;

Individuals who fit the categories listed above and have received a mixed vaccine schedule or only one dose of mRNA vaccine, are eligible for the same mRNA product for a second dose of COVID-19 vaccine or for a third dose of COVID-19 vaccine. These individuals must obtain a letter from their employee, physician or medical clinic or educational institution. The letter should contain information on the vaccine requirements and include the person’s first and last name. The letter can be provided at time of vaccine appointment. These individuals can receive one dose of mRNA vaccine.

Individuals who are requesting an additional dose of COVID-19 vaccine for work, school, or medical procedure are advised:

* If they have already received three doses of a COVID-19 vaccine product, no additional doses are recommended.
* There must be a minimum of 28 days between the second and third dose.