

August 3, 2021

To Health Care Providers and Partners,

RE: Allowable Medical Exemptions from the COVID-19 Vaccine

The Ministry of Health and the National Advisory Committee on Immunization (NACI) considers the following conditions the only absolute medical exemptions from the COVID-19 vaccine:

- Documented anaphylaxis to a previous dose of COVID-19 vaccine, or
- Documented anaphylaxis to one of the vaccine components in authorized, available COVID-19 vaccines:

Vaccine product	Potential allergen included in the vaccine or its container
Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine	Polyethylene glycol (PEG)
Moderna COVID-19 vaccine	Polyethylene glycol (PEG) Tromethamine (trometamol or Tris)
AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine	Polysorbate 80

- Individuals who have experienced venous or arterial thrombosis with thrombocytopenia following vaccination with a viral vector COVID-19 vaccine should not receive a second dose of a viral vector COVID-19 vaccine
- Individuals with a history of capillary leak syndrome should not receive a viral vector COVID-19 vaccine

Reference: [NACI's Recommendations on the use of COVID-19 vaccines, Table 4](#) for complete details.

These recommendations are in accordance with the [guidance](#) expressed by the National Advisory Committee on Immunizations (NACI) as of July 22, 2021 on [non-medicinal ingredients of authorized available COVID-19 vaccines](#) that have been associated with allergic reactions in other products.

If there are other health conditions that an individual feels should be taken into consideration, but are not a contraindication to the vaccine, they are encouraged to speak to their physician to address their concerns.

At this time, it is recommended that all staff, whether vaccinated or not, follow public health measures (e.g., maintaining physical distancing, continuing to wear full personal protective equipment) in accordance with the latest Ministry guidance.

Sincerely,



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**Health
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