



BC Centre for Disease Control  
Provincial Health Services Authority

Communicable Diseases and Immunization Service  
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**Date:** October 6, 2021

**Administrative Circular:** 2021:36

**ATTN:** Medical Health Officers and Branch Offices  
Public Health Nursing Administrators and Assistant Administrators  
Holders of Communicable Disease Control Manuals

**Re: Update to Communicable Disease Control Manual, Chapter 2: Immunization, Introduction, Part 4 – Biological Products, Part 5 – Adverse Events Following Immunization & Supporting Documents**

**Introduction**

Subsection 1.3 Licensed Practical Nurses has been added, addressing the BC College of Nurses and Midwives' limits and conditions for Licensed Practical Nurses who autonomously compound or administer immunoprophylactic agents.

**Please remove:** entire section  
**Please add:** entire section dated October 2021

**Part 4 – Biological Products**

**COVID-19 Vaccines**

**COVID-19 mRNA Vaccine COMIRNATY™ (Pfizer)**

The product page has been revised as follows:

- The brand name COMIRNATY™ has been added.
- **Doses and Schedules:**
  - Content has been revised to indicate that the provision of a third dose of a COVID-19 mRNA vaccine has been expanded to individuals who are moderately to severely immunosuppressed for completion of a 3-dose primary vaccine series. A footnote has been added with a link to the government of B.C. website which includes a comprehensive list of significantly immunosuppressing drugs or treatments including at risk biologics, steroids and other agents.
  - Content has been added to indicate that Moderna COVID-19 vaccine is preferentially recommended for all doses in a primary series for the specified severely immunosuppressed individuals.
  - A recommendation for a booster dose with an mRNA COVID-19 vaccine has been added for residents of long-term care (LTC) and assisted living (AL) facilities, and alternate level of care (ALC) clients awaiting placement in LTC, who have already received a primary COVID-19 vaccine series.

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- **Booster Doses:**
  - Previous content stating that booster doses are not recommended has been revised to indicate that residents of LTC and AL facilities, and ALC clients awaiting placement in LTC, are recommended a booster dose with an mRNA vaccine at least 6 months (minimum interval of 28 days) after the primary COVID-19 vaccine series has been completed. Moderna COVID-19 vaccine is preferentially recommended. A footnote has been added to indicate that a booster dose of a viral vector vaccine may be considered when an mRNA COVID-19 vaccine is contraindicated or unavailable.
- **Precautions:**
  - Due to the accumulated evidence on the safety and effectiveness of COVID-19 vaccine for those who are immunosuppressed, have an autoimmune condition, or are pregnant or breastfeeding, the precaution related to these groups has been removed.
  - The recommendation to delay TST and IGRA testing for at least 4 weeks after COVID-19 immunization has been removed, and these tests may now be administered without regard to timing of COVID-19 vaccination. The basis for this change in recommendation is referenced to general administration guidance for vaccines and guidance from the Centre for Disease Control (CDC).

**Please remove page numbers:** 1-6 dated September 14, 2021  
**Please add new page numbers:** 1-6 dated October 6, 2021

### **COVID-19 mRNA Vaccine SPIKEVAX™ (Moderna)**

The product page has been revised as follows:

- The brand name SPIKEVAX™ has been added.
- **Doses and Schedules:**
  - Refer to the changes noted above for the Pfizer vaccine.
- **Booster Doses:**
  - Refer to the changes noted above for the Pfizer vaccine.
- **Precautions:**
  - Refer to the changes noted above for the Pfizer vaccine.

**Please remove page numbers:** 1-5 dated September 14, 2021  
**Please add new page numbers:** 1-5 dated October 6, 2021

### **COVID-19 Vaccine VAXZEVRIA™/COVISHIELD (AstraZeneca/Verity Pharmaceuticals)**

The product page has been revised as follows:

- The brand name VAXZEVRIA™ has been added.
- **Doses and Schedules:**
  - Refer to the changes noted above for the Pfizer vaccine.

- **Booster Doses:**
  - Refer to the changes noted above for the Pfizer vaccine.
- **Precautions:**
  - Refer to the changes noted above for the Pfizer vaccine.

**Please remove page numbers:** 1-4 dated September 14, 2021  
**Please add new page numbers:** 1-5 dated October 6, 2021

### **COVID-19 Vaccine (Ad26.COV2.S [recombinant]) (Janssen Inc.)**

The product page has been revised as follows:

- **Doses and Schedules:**
  - Content has been revised to indicate that the provision of a second dose of a COVID-19 mRNA vaccine has been expanded to individuals who are moderately to severely immunosuppressed for completion of a 2-dose primary vaccine series. A footnote has been added with a link to the government of B.C. website which includes a comprehensive list of significantly immunosuppressing drugs or treatments including at risk biologics, steroids and other agents, has been included in a footnote.
  - Content has been added to indicate that Moderna COVID-19 vaccine is preferentially recommended for all doses in a primary series for the specified severely immunosuppressed individuals.
  - A recommendation for a booster dose with an mRNA COVID-19 vaccine has been added for residents of long-term care (LTC) and assisted living (AL) facilities, and alternate level of care (ALC) clients awaiting placement in LTC, who have already received a primary COVID-19 vaccine series.
- **Booster Doses:**
  - Refer to the changes noted above for the Pfizer vaccine.
- **Precautions:**
  - Refer to the changes noted above for the Pfizer vaccine.

**Please remove page numbers:** 1-4 dated September 14, 2021  
**Please add new page numbers:** 1-4 dated October 6, 2021

### **COVID-19 Vaccine Screening Checklist**

Questions pertaining to screening for immune system conditions, an autoimmune condition, pregnancy and breastfeeding, have been removed from the Precautions section of the checklist.

**Please remove page number:** 1 dated June 18, 2021  
**Please add new page number:** 1 dated October 6, 2021

**Please also remove the Title Page and Table of Contents for Part 4 – Biological Products dated August 2021 and replace with the enclosed updated Title Page and Table of Contents dated October 2021.**

### **Part 5 – Adverse Events Following Immunization**

- Information on how to access paramedic assessment and treatment records from BC Emergency Health Services, to support the AEFI report following a suspected anaphylaxis, has been added.

**Please remove page number: 19 dated November 2016**

**Please add new page number: 19 dated October 2021**

### **Supporting Documents**

#### **Latex Content in Vaccines**

- Brand names for the COVID-19 vaccines have been added.

**Please remove page number: 1 dated August 31, 2021**

**Please add new page number: 1 dated October 2021**

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Stephanie Meier, Senior Practice Leader, BCCDC (telephone: 604-707-2577 / email: [stephanie.meier@bccdc.ca](mailto:stephanie.meier@bccdc.ca)).

Sincerely,



Monika Naus MD MHSc FRCPC FACPM  
Medical Director  
Communicable Diseases & Immunization Service  
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