



BC Centre for Disease Control
Provincial Health Services Authority

Immunization Programs and Vaccine Preventable Diseases Service
655 West 12th Avenue
Vancouver, BC V5Z 4R4

Tel 604.707.2548
Fax 604.707.2515
www.bccdc.ca

Date: October 11, 2023

Administrative Circular: 2023:27

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,
Part 4 – Biological Products & Appendix E – Management of Biologicals**

Part 4 – Biological Products

COVID-19 Vaccines

COVID-19 Vaccine Eligibility

- The COVID-19 vaccine eligibility table has been updated to include the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 XBB.1.5 vaccines.
- Footnote B has been added to indicate that the Moderna COVID-19 XBB.1.5 mRNA vaccine is the preferred product for children 6 months to 4 years of age, as well as individuals who are moderately to severely immunosuppressed.
- Content related to 'minimum intervals' has been removed from this page, and footnote D has been added to refer to the respective product pages in [Part 4: Biological Products, COVID-19 Vaccines](#) for this information.
- Footnote E was revised to indicate that if any dose in the series is a Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine (3 mcg dose), a total of at least 3 doses of COVID-19 vaccine with at least one of these doses being the COVID-19 XBB.1.5 formulation is recommended.
- Footnote F has been added to indicate that for children 6 months to 4 years of age who are moderately to severely immunosuppressed, if any dose in the series is a Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine, a total of at least 4 doses of COVID-19 vaccine is recommended with at least one of these doses being the COVID-19 XBB.1.5 formulation.
- Information regarding the original monovalent and bivalent COVID-19 vaccines has been removed as these products are no longer recommended in BC. The exception is the Novavax (Nuvaxovid™) original monovalent vaccine which continues to be available for individuals who are unable or unwilling to receive a COVID-19 mRNA vaccine.

Please remove page numbers: 1-3 dated September 2023
Please add new page numbers: 1-3 dated October 2023

Page 1 of 5

COVID-19 mRNA Vaccine SPIKEVAX® XBB.1.5 (Moderna)

- Footnote A has been updated to indicate that the Moderna COVID-19 XBB.1.5 mRNA vaccine is the preferred product for children 6 months to 4 years age.
- Footnote C was revised to indicate that if any dose in the series is a Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine (3 mcg dose), a total of at least 3 doses of COVID-19 vaccine with at least one of these doses being the COVID-19 XBB.1.5 formulation is recommended.
- Footnote G has been added to indicate that for children 6 months to 4 years of age who are moderately to severely immunosuppressed, if any dose in the series is a Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine, a total of at least 4 doses of COVID-19 vaccine with at least one of these doses being the COVID-19 XBB.1.5 formulation is recommended.

Please remove page numbers: 1-4 dated September 2023
Please add new page numbers: 1-4 dated October 2023

COVID-19 mRNA Vaccine COMIRNATY® Omicron XBB.1.5 (Pfizer-BioNTech)

- A new product page has been added for this vaccine.
- This vaccine is approved for use in those 12 years of age and older.
- This product has a grey vial cap and a grey label border.

Please add new page numbers: 1-5 dated October 2023

COVID-19 mRNA Vaccine COMIRNATY® Omicron XBB.1.5 (Pfizer-BioNTech) 5-11 Years of Age

- A new product page has been added for this vaccine.
- This vaccine is approved for use in those 5-11 years of age (inclusive).
- This product has a blue vial cap and a blue label border.

Please add page numbers: 1-5 dated October 2023

COVID-19 mRNA Vaccine COMIRNATY® Omicron XBB.1.5 (Pfizer-BioNTech) 6 months – 4 Years of Age

- A new product page has been added for this vaccine.
- This vaccine is approved for use in those 6 months – 4 years of age (inclusive).
- This product has a maroon vial cap and a maroon label border.

Please add page numbers: 1-5 dated October 2023

Note: The COVID-19 mRNA product pages below have been removed. The new COVID-19 XBB.1.5 mRNA vaccines have replaced the previous original monovalent and bivalent products for all age groups, with the exception of the Novavax (Nuvaxovid™) original monovalent vaccine which continues to be available for individuals who are unable or unwilling to receive a COVID-19 mRNA vaccine.

COVID-19 mRNA Vaccine COMIRNATY® Bivalent (Pfizer-BioNTech) Adult/Adolescent

This product page has been removed from the BC Immunization Manual.

Please remove page numbers: 1-5 dated September 2023

COVID-19 Vaccine COMIRNATY® Bivalent (Pfizer-BioNTech) 5-11 Years of Age

This product page has been removed from the BC Immunization Manual.

Please remove page numbers: 1-5 dated September 2023

COVID-19 Vaccine SPIKEVAX™ (Moderna) 6 months – 5 Years of Age

This product page has been removed from the BC Immunization Manual.

Please remove page numbers: 1-4 dated September 2023

COVID-19 Vaccine SPIKEVAX™ Bivalent (Moderna)

This product page has been removed from the BC Immunization Manual.

Please remove page numbers: 1-4 dated September 2023

Please also remove the Title Page and Table of Contents for Part 4 – Biological Products dated September 2023 and replace with the enclosed updated Title Page and Table of Contents dated October 2023.

Appendix E – Management of Biologicals

Guidance for Receiving and Handling the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 mRNA Vaccine (including dry ice procedures)

- Content has been revised to remove reference to prior formulations of Comirnaty®.
- The names and hyperlinks to the Pfizer standard operating procedures for redistribution and shipping, storage, thawing and use guidelines have been updated.

Please remove page numbers: 1-13 dated December 9, 2022

Please add new page numbers: 1-13 dated October 2023

Guidance for Receiving and Handling the Moderna COVID-19 mRNA Vaccine

Content has been revised to remove reference to prior formulations of Spikevax™ and Spikevax™ Bivalent Original/Omicron BA.4/5.

Please remove page numbers: 1-4 dated June 2023

Please add new page numbers: 1-4 dated October 2023

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

Sincerely,



Monika Naus MD MHS Sc FRCPC FACPM
Medical Director
Immunization Programs and Vaccine Preventable Diseases Service
BC Centre for Disease Control

pc:

Provincial Health Officer
Dr. Bonnie Henry

BC Ministry of Health,
Communicable Disease Prevention and Control,
Population & Public Health Division:

Bethany McMullen
Senior Director, Immunization Strategy

Brian Sagar
A/Executive Director