



BC Centre for Disease Control  
Provincial Health Services Authority

Communicable Diseases and Immunization Service  
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**Date: June 16, 2021**

**Administrative Circular: 2021:24**

**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 mRNA Vaccine mRNA-1273 (Moderna)**

The product page has been revised as follows:

- **Administration:**
  - The number of doses available per vial has been updated to indicate that this product is available in 10-dose and 14-dose vials. Associated footnote G has been added to indicate that the US-labelled product yields at least 14 doses and contains a different carton and vial label. Information has also been included regarding the use of low dead-volume syringes for the extraction of 14 doses. Continue to reference the Canadian Product Monograph for all product information for use in Canada.
- **Storage and Handling:**
  - Footnote I has been added to indicate that the expiry date is not printed on the US-labelled product. The expiry date for the corresponding lots can be found in the 'Products affected' section of the [Health Canada alert](#).
  - The stability information has been updated to indicate that the vaccine can be stored at room temperature for up to 24 hours, and must be used within 24 hours following first vial puncture.
  - Directions for thawing frozen vials have been updated to indicate a longer thaw time for the 14-dose vial (i.e., US-labelled product).

**Please remove page numbers: 1-4 dated June 3, 2021**  
**Please add new page numbers: 1-4 dated June 16, 2021**

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## **Appendix E – Management of Biologicals**

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

- The content under “Thaw each vial before use” has been updated to include a longer thaw time for the 14-dose vial (i.e., US-labelled product).
- The content under “Thawed shelf life” has been revised to indicate that the unpunctured vial can be stored for up to 24 hours at room temperature (up to +25°C). The punctured vial can be stored in the refrigerator or at room temperature for 24 hours after which the vaccine must be discarded.

**Please remove page numbers: 1-4 dated March 30, 2021**

**Please add new page numbers: 1-4 date June 16, 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  
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