Date: March 18, 2021    Administrative Circular: 2021:10

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

Part 4 – Biological Products
COVID-19 Vaccines

COVID-19 Vaccine ChAdOx1-S [recombinant] (AstraZeneca/Verity Pharmaceuticals)
- Footnote A which addressed the NACI recommendation for use of the vaccine in those
  18-64 years of age has been deleted.
- The Administration section has been revised to include:
  - Content regarding the pooling of residual vaccine from up to three vials to
    constitute a full dose of vaccine provided the vials are from the same
    manufacturer and lot number. Further information on how to do this safely to
    minimize the risk of microbial contaminants and maintain product quality has
    been added as an addendum within the product page.
  - The vaccine can be pre-loaded into a syringe for up to 6 hours at room
    temperature.
  - The upper limit for room temperature has been revised to align with the product
    monographs for COVISHIELD and the AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine.
  - During use, the vials can be handled in room light conditions.

Please remove page numbers: 1-3 dated March 2021
Please add new page numbers: 1-4 dated March 18, 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).

Sincerely,

Monika Naus MD MHSc FRCPC FACPM
Medical Director
Communicable Diseases & Immunization Service
BC Centre for Disease Control

pc:

Provincial Health Officer
Dr. Bonnie Henry

Dr. Reka Gustafson
Vice President, Public Health & Wellness, PHSA & Deputy Provincial Health Officer

Deputy Provincial Health Officer
Dr. Martin Lavoie

BC Ministry of Health, Population & Public Health Division:

Brian Sagar
Senior Director Communicable Disease, Population and Public Health Division

Bernard Achampong
Executive Director, Public Health, Planning and Prevention, Population and Public Health Division