Re: Update to Communicable Disease Control Manual, Chapter 2: Immunization, Part 4 – Biological Products

Part 4 – Biological Products
COVID-19 Vaccines

COVID-19 mRNA Vaccine BNT162b2 (Pfizer)

The product page has been revised as follows:

- **Indications:**
  - The authorized age for use has been revised to 12 years of age and older per Health Canada. The Doses and Schedule section continues to indicate ‘16 years of age and older’ as COVID-19 vaccine is not currently being offered to those less than 16 years of age.

- **Precautions:**
  - Content regarding the immunization of individuals who are immunosuppressed, have an autoimmune condition, or who are pregnant or breastfeeding has been revised to indicate that they should be offered vaccine (revised from the previous recommendation that they ‘may’ be offered COVID-19 vaccine).
  - Footnote B - the link has been revised to the updated SOGC statement.
  - Footnote C has been added which refers to a recent US study supporting the safety of mRNA vaccines among pregnant persons.
  - The recommendation to defer COVID-19 vaccination for at least 90 days following receipt of anti-SARS-CoV-2 monoclonal antibodies or convalescent plasma for treatment or prevention of COVID-19 has been updated to indicate that deferral is not required following treatment with tocilizumab or sarilumab.

Please remove page numbers: 1-5 dated April 20, 2021
Please add new page numbers: 1-5 dated May 7, 2021
COVID-19 mRNA Vaccine mRNA-1273 (Moderna)

The product page has been revised as follows:

- **Precautions:**
  - Content regarding the immunization of individuals who are immunosuppressed, have an autoimmune condition, or who are pregnant or breastfeeding has been revised to indicate that they should be offered vaccine (revised from the previous recommendation that they ‘may’ be offered COVID-19 vaccine).
  - Footnote B - the link has been revised to the updated SOGC statement.
  - Footnote C has been added which refers to a recent US study supporting the safety of mRNA vaccines among pregnant persons.
  - The recommendation to defer COVID-19 vaccination for at least 90 days following receipt of anti-SARS-CoV-2 monoclonal antibodies or convalescent plasma for treatment or prevention of COVID-19 has been updated to indicate that deferral is not required following treatment with tocilizumab or sarilumab.

Please remove page numbers: 1-4 dated April 20, 2021
Please add new page numbers: 1-4 dated May 7, 2021

COVID-19 Vaccine (ChAdOx1-S [recombinant]) (AstraZeneca/Verity Pharmaceuticals)

The product page has been revised as follows:

- **Contraindications:**
  - A new contraindication has been added re: thrombosis with thrombocytopenia following a previous dose of an adenovirus vector COVID-19 vaccine.

- **Precautions:**
  - Content regarding the immunization of individuals who are immunosuppressed, have an autoimmune condition, or who are pregnant or breastfeeding has been revised to indicate that they should be offered vaccine (revised from the previous recommendation that they ‘may’ be offered COVID-19 vaccine).
  - Footnote B - the link has been revised to the updated SOGC statement.
  - New precaution added re: individuals who have experienced a previous CVST with thrombocytopenia or heparin-induced thrombocytopenia (HIT).
  - The recommendation to defer COVID-19 vaccination for at least 90 days following receipt of anti-SARS-CoV-2 monoclonal antibodies or convalescent plasma for treatment or prevention of COVID-19 has been updated to indicate that deferral is not required following treatment with tocilizumab or sarilumab.

Please remove page numbers: 1-4 dated April 20, 2021
Please add new page numbers: 1-4 dated May 7, 2021
COVID-19 Vaccine (Ad26.COV2.S [recombinant]) (Janssen Inc.)
This is a new product page that has been added.

Please add new page numbers: 1-4 dated May 7, 2021

COVID-19 Vaccination Aftercare Sheet
The COVID-19 Vaccination Aftercare Sheet has been updated as follows:
- Content regarding notification for when to return for dose #2 has been updated.
- Janssen vaccine has been added to the content related to rare cases of serious blood clots and/or bleeding following vaccination.
  - The rate of such events has been revised to 1 case in 100,000 vaccinated people.
  - The recommended timeframe for monitoring for symptoms has been revised to 4-28 days.
- Content added indicating that pregnant people requiring discomfort or fever control should use acetaminophen (Tylenol®) and not ibuprofen (Advil®).
- Additional logos have been added.

Please remove page numbers: 1-2 dated (no date)
Please add new page numbers: 1-2 dated May 7, 2021

COVID-19 Vaccine Screening Checklist
The screening checklist has been updated as follows:
- Question 2 under Contraindications has been added regarding adverse events following the first dose of COVID-19 vaccine.
- Question 8 related to a previous cerebral venous sinus thrombosis (CVST) with thrombocytopenia or heparin-induced thrombocytopenia (HIT) has been added under Precautions.
- Question 9 regarding receipt of specific medications for COVID-19 prevention or treatment within the last 3 months has been slightly re-worded, with the recommendation that deferral is not required following treatment with tocilizumab or sarilumab.
- The question regarding previous lab-confirmed COVID-19 disease within the last 3 months has been removed as limited vaccine supply is no longer a concern and such individuals should be offered a complete series of COVID-19 vaccine if they are no longer infectious and symptoms have resolved.

Please remove page number: 1 dated March 2021
Please add new page number: 1 dated May 7, 2021
Please also remove the Title Page and Table of Contents for Part 4 – Biological Products dated April 2021, and replace with the enclosed updated Title Page and Table of Contents dated May 2021.

The COVID-19 Vaccines HealthLinkBC File is being updated and will be posted shortly.

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,

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