



BC Centre for Disease Control  
Provincial Health Services Authority

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**Date: August 31, 2021**

**Administrative Circular: 2021:33**

**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 &  
Supporting Documents**

## **Part 4 – Biological Products**

### **COVID-19 Vaccines**

#### **COVID-19 mRNA Vaccine mRNA-BNT162b2 (Pfizer-BioNTech)**

##### **Administration:**

- The ultra-low storage temperature has been revised to -90°C to -60°C (previously -80°C to -60°C).
- Footnote B on page 2 has been added to indicate that expiry dates have been extended by 3 months for products dated Aug 2021 to Feb 2022. This only applies to products stored at ultra-low temperatures. For more information, refer to the [Product Monograph](#), section 11 “Storage, Stability and Disposal”.

##### **Precautions:**

- Content has been added to indicate that individuals with a previous history of myocarditis or pericarditis unrelated to COVID-19 vaccination do not need to defer the vaccine, provided they are no longer being followed by a medical professional for heart issues.

**Please remove page numbers:** 1-6 dated August 10, 2021  
**Please add new page numbers:** 1-6 dated August 31, 2021

#### **COVID-19 mRNA Vaccine mRNA-1273 (Moderna)**

##### **Indications:**

- The age indications for this vaccine have been revised per Health Canada authorization.
- Footnote A has been revised to indicate this vaccine may be offered to individuals turning 12 years of age within the current calendar year.

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- Footnote B stating adolescents 16-17 years of age who are extremely clinically vulnerable may receive this vaccine if Pfizer-BioNTech is unavailable, has been removed.

**Precautions:**

- Content has been added to indicate that individuals with a previous history of myocarditis or pericarditis unrelated to COVID-19 vaccination do not need to defer the vaccine, provided they are no longer being followed by a medical professional for heart issues.

**Please remove page numbers:** 1-4 dated August 10, 2021  
**Please add new page numbers:** 1-4 dated August 31, 2021

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

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

- The ultra-low storage temperature under 'Temperature Requirements for Shipping and Storage upon Receipt of the Vaccine' has been revised to -90°C to -60°C (previously -80°C to -60°C).

**Please remove page numbers:** 1-12 dated August 10 2021  
**Please add new page numbers:** 1-12 dated August 31, 2021

## **Supporting Documents**

### **Latex Content in Vaccines**

- COVID-19 vaccines have been added to the list of products that do not contain latex.

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

## **The following resource has been updated:**

- The [World Health Organization \(WHO\) Emergency Use Authorization \(EUA\) Qualified COVID-19 Vaccines](#) has been updated with regard to interval between doses.

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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