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 percarditis 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.
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.

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).

Supporting Documents

Latex Content in Vaccines

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

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).

Sincerely,

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