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, Introduction, Part 4 – Biological Products, Part 5 – Adverse Events Following Immunization & Supporting Documents

Introduction
Subsection 1.3 Licensed Practical Nurses has been added, addressing the BC College of Nurses and Midwives’ limits and conditions for Licensed Practical Nurses who autonomously compound or administer immunoprophylactic agents.

Please remove: entire section
Please add: entire section dated October 2021

Part 4 – Biological Products
COVID-19 Vaccines

COVID-19 mRNA Vaccine COMIRNATY™ (Pfizer)
The product page has been revised as follows:

• The brand name COMIRNATY™ has been added.
• Doses and Schedules:
  o Content has been revised to indicate that the provision of a third dose of a COVID-19 mRNA vaccine has been expanded to individuals who are moderately to severely immunosuppressed for completion of a 3-dose primary vaccine series. A footnote has been added with a link to the government of B.C. website which includes a comprehensive list of significantly immunosuppressing drugs or treatments including at risk biologics, steroids and other agents.
  o Content has been added to indicate that Moderna COVID-19 vaccine is preferentially recommended for all doses in a primary series for the specified severely immunosuppressed individuals.
  o A recommendation for a booster dose with an mRNA COVID-19 vaccine has been added for residents of long-term care (LTC) and assisted living (AL) facilities, and alternate level of care (ALC) clients awaiting placement in LTC, who have already received a primary COVID-19 vaccine series.
**Booster Doses:**
- Previous content stating that booster doses are not recommended has been revised to indicate that residents of LTC and AL facilities, and ALC clients awaiting placement in LTC, are recommended a booster dose with an mRNA vaccine at least 6 months (minimum interval of 28 days) after the primary COVID-19 vaccine series has been completed. Moderna COVID-19 vaccine is preferentially recommended. A footnote has been added to indicate that a booster dose of a viral vector vaccine may be considered when an mRNA COVID-19 vaccine is contraindicated or unavailable.

**Precautions:**
- Due to the accumulated evidence on the safety and effectiveness of COVID-19 vaccine for those who are immunosuppressed, have an autoimmune condition, or are pregnant or breastfeeding, the precaution related to these groups has been removed.
- The recommendation to delay TST and IGRA testing for at least 4 weeks after COVID-19 immunization has been removed, and these tests may now be administered without regard to timing of COVID-19 vaccination. The basis for this change in recommendation is referenced to general administration guidance for vaccines and guidance from the Centre for Disease Control (CDC).

Please remove page numbers: 1-6 dated September 14, 2021
Please add new page numbers: 1-6 dated October 6, 2021

**COVID-19 mRNA Vaccine SPIKEVAX™ (Moderna)**
The product page has been revised as follows:

- The brand name SPIKEVAX™ has been added.
- **Doses and Schedules:**
  - Refer to the changes noted above for the Pfizer vaccine.
- **Booster Doses:**
  - Refer to the changes noted above for the Pfizer vaccine.
- **Precautions:**
  - Refer to the changes noted above for the Pfizer vaccine.

Please remove page numbers: 1-5 dated September 14, 2021
Please add new page numbers: 1-5 dated October 6, 2021

**COVID-19 Vaccine VAXZEVRIA™/COVISHIELD (AstraZeneca/Verity Pharmaceuticals)**
The product page has been revised as follows:

- The brand name VAXZEVRIA™ has been added.
- **Doses and Schedules:**
  - Refer to the changes noted above for the Pfizer vaccine.
• Booster Doses:
  o Refer to the changes noted above for the Pfizer vaccine.

• Precautions:
  o Refer to the changes noted above for the Pfizer vaccine.

Please remove page numbers: 1-4 dated September 14, 2021
Please add new page numbers: 1-5 dated October 6, 2021

COVID-19 Vaccine (Ad26.COV2.S [recombinant]) (Janssen Inc.)
The product page has been revised as follows:

• Doses and Schedules:
  o Content has been revised to indicate that the provision of a second dose of a COVID-19 mRNA vaccine has been expanded to individuals who are moderately to severely immunosuppressed for completion of a 2-dose primary vaccine series. A footnote has been added with a link to the government of B.C. website which includes a comprehensive list of significantly immunosuppressing drugs or treatments including at risk biologics, steroids and other agents, has been included in a footnote.
  o Content has been added to indicate that Moderna COVID-19 vaccine is preferentially recommended for all doses in a primary series for the specified severely immunosuppressed individuals.
  o A recommendation for a booster dose with an mRNA COVID-19 vaccine has been added for residents of long-term care (LTC) and assisted living (AL) facilities, and alternate level of care (ALC) clients awaiting placement in LTC, who have already received a primary COVID-19 vaccine series.

• Booster Doses:
  o Refer to the changes noted above for the Pfizer vaccine.

• Precautions:
  o Refer to the changes noted above for the Pfizer vaccine.

Please remove page numbers: 1-4 dated September 14, 2021
Please add new page numbers: 1-4 dated October 6, 2021

COVID-19 Vaccine Screening Checklist
Questions pertaining to screening for immune system conditions, an autoimmune condition, pregnancy and breastfeeding, have been removed from the Precautions section of the checklist.

Please remove page number: 1 dated June 18, 2021
Please add new page number: 1 dated October 6, 2021
Please also remove the Title Page and Table of Contents for Part 4 – Biological Products dated August 2021 and replace with the enclosed updated Title Page and Table of Contents dated October 2021.

Part 5 – Adverse Events Following Immunization

- Information on how to access paramedic assessment and treatment records from BC Emergency Health Services, to support the AEFI report following a suspected anaphylaxis, has been added.

Please remove page number: 19 dated November 2016
Please add new page number: 19 dated October 2021

Supporting Documents

Latex Content in Vaccines

- Brand names for the COVID-19 vaccines have been added.

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