Date: March 17, 2023  Administrative Circular: 2023:09

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 Eligibility
- The ‘Fall 2022 Booster’ section has been revised to ‘Booster Dose.’ The corresponding footnotes have been updated accordingly.
- The minimum interval for a booster dose from completion of the primary series or a previous booster dose has been revised from 3 months to at least 5 months. NOTE: Any earlier booster doses provided with a minimum interval of 3 months will remain valid.
- Moderna Bivalent (Original/Omicron OR Original/Omicron BA.4/5) has been added to the eligibility criteria row for individuals 5-11 years of age. NOTE: Moderna Bivalent products are only for those 6-11 years of age.
- The 12-17 years of age and the 18 years of age and older rows have been combined into a single row for individuals 12 years of age and older.
- Spring 2023 Booster Dose eligibility criteria has been added. A bivalent COVID-19 mRNA (BA.4/5) vaccine should be used for the Spring 2023 Booster Dose.
- The following footnote has been added for consideration around hybrid immunity “Individuals who have had at least 2 doses of mRNA vaccine and have had a COVID-19 infection are well protected against serious disease and hospitalization; however, for those who wish to receive an additional dose, an interval of 6 months is recommended between vaccine or infection whichever was more recent.”
COVID-19 mRNA Vaccine COMIRNATY® (Pfizer-BioNTech) Adult/Adolescent

- **DOSES AND SCHEDULE:** The minimum interval for a booster dose from completion of the primary series or a previous booster dose has been revised to at least 5 months.
- **BOOSTER DOSES:** Content has been revised to link to the COVID-19 Eligibility page for booster dose recommendations.
- **SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS:** Content related to deferral of a COVID-19 booster dose until 3-6 months following a positive COVID-19 test has been removed.

Please remove page numbers: 1-6 dated January 2023
Please add new page numbers: 1-5 dated March 2023

COVID-19 mRNA Vaccine COMIRNATY® (Pfizer-BioNTech) 5-11 Years of Age

- **DOSES AND SCHEDULE and BOOSTER DOSES:** The minimum interval for a booster dose from completion of the primary series or a previous booster dose has been revised to at least 5 months.
- **SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS:** Content related to deferral of a COVID-19 booster dose until 3-6 months following a positive COVID-19 test has been removed.

Please remove page numbers: 1-6 dated January 2023
Please add new page numbers: 1-5 dated March 2023

COVID-19 mRNA Vaccine COMIRNATY® Bivalent (Pfizer-BioNTech) Adult/Adolescent

- **DOSES AND SCHEDULE:** The minimum interval for a booster dose from completion of the primary series or a previous booster dose has been revised to at least 5 months.
- **BOOSTER DOSES:** Spring 2023 booster dose recommendations have been added. For individuals for whom a Spring 2023 booster dose may be offered, the following footnote has been added for consideration around hybrid immunity “Individuals who have had at least 2 doses of mRNA vaccine and have had a COVID-19 infection are well protected against serious disease and hospitalization; however, for those who wish to receive an additional dose, an interval of 6 months is recommended between vaccine or infection whichever was more recent.”
- **SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS:** Content related to deferral of a COVID-19 booster dose until 3-6 months following a positive COVID-19 test has been removed.

Please remove page numbers: 1-4 dated March 2023
Please add new page numbers: 1-5 dated March 17, 2023
COVID-19 mRNA Vaccine COMIRNATY® Bivalent (Pfizer-BioNTech) 5-11 Years of Age

- **DOSES AND SCHEDULE:** The minimum interval for a booster dose from completion of the primary series or a previous booster dose has been revised to at least 5 months.
- **SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS:** Content related to deferral of COVID-19 booster dose until 3-6 months following a positive COVID-19 test has been replaced with “Individuals who have had at least 2 doses of mRNA vaccine and have had a COVID-19 infection are well protected against serious disease and hospitalization; however, for those who wish to receive an additional dose, an interval of 6 months is recommended between vaccine or infection whichever was more recent.”

Please remove page numbers: 1-5 dated March 2023
Please add new page numbers: 1-5 dated March 17, 2023

COVID-19 mRNA Vaccine SPIKEVAX™ (Moderna) 6 Years of Age and Older

- **DOSES AND SCHEDULE:** The minimum interval for a booster dose from completion of the primary series or a previous booster dose has been revised to at least 5 months.
- **BOOSTER DOSES:** Content has been revised to link to the COVID-19 Eligibility page for booster dose recommendations.
- **SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS:** Content related to deferral of a COVID-19 booster dose until 3-6 months following a positive COVID-19 test has been removed.

Please remove page numbers: 1-5 dated January 2023
Please add new page numbers: 1-4 dated March 2023

COVID-19 mRNA Vaccine SPIKEVAX Bivalent™ (Moderna) Original/Omicron

- This product is now approved by Health Canada for use in individuals 6 years of age and older. INDICATIONS and DOSES AND SCHEDULES have been updated to reflect this.
- This vaccine is not intended for the Spring 2023 booster program; however, this vaccine may be provided if a bivalent BA.4/5 COVID-19 vaccine is unavailable.
- **BOOSTER DOSES:** Spring 2023 booster dose recommendations have been added. For individuals for whom a Spring 2023 booster dose may be offered, the following footnote has been added for consideration around hybrid immunity “Individuals who have had at least 2 doses of mRNA vaccine and have had a COVID-19 infection are well protected against serious disease and hospitalization; however, for those who wish to receive an additional dose, an interval of 6 months is recommended between vaccine or infection whichever was more recent.”
- **SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS:** Content related to deferral of a COVID-19 booster dose until 3-6 months following a positive COVID-19 test has been removed.

Please remove page numbers: 1-4 dated January 27, 2023
Please add new page numbers: 1-5 dated March 2023
COVID-19 mRNA Vaccine SPIKEVAX Bivalent™ (Moderna) Original/Omicron BA.4/5

- **INDICATIONS:** The age indication of this product has been expanded to 6 years of age and older. This product may be considered in individuals 6 to 17 years of age if informed consent includes discussion that this vaccine has not yet been approved for use in this age group. DOSES AND SCHEDULE content has been updated to reflect this.
- **BOOSTER DOSES:** Spring 2023 booster dose recommendations have been added. For individuals for whom a Spring 2023 booster dose may be offered, the following footnote has been added for consideration around hybrid immunity “Individuals who have had at least 2 doses of mRNA vaccine and have had a COVID-19 infection are well protected against serious disease and hospitalization; however, for those who wish to receive an additional dose, an interval of 6 months is recommended between vaccine or infection whichever was more recent.”
- **SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS:** Content related to deferral of a COVID-19 booster dose until 3-6 months following a positive COVID-19 test has been removed.

Please remove page numbers: 1-4 dated January 27, 2023
Please add new page numbers: 1-5 dated March 2023

COVID-19 Vaccine ChAdOx1-S (recombinant) VAXZEVRIA™ (AstraZeneca)

As the AstraZeneca COVID-19 Vaccine is no longer available in BC, the product page has been removed from the BC Immunization Manual.

Please remove page numbers: 1-4 dated November 4, 2022

COVID-19 Vaccine Ad26.COV2.S (recombinant) JCOVDEN™ (Janssen)

- **SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS:** Content related to deferral of a COVID-19 booster dose until 3-6 months following a positive COVID-19 test has been removed.

Please remove page numbers: 1-4 dated November 4, 2022
Please add new page numbers: 1-4 dated March 2023
COVID-19 Vaccine NUVAXOVID™ (Novavax)

- Content related to the booster dose within DOSES AND SCHEDULE has been moved to footnote F.
- BOOSTER DOSES: Content has been revised to link to the COVID-19 Eligibility page for booster dose recommendations.
- SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS: Content related to deferral of a COVID-19 booster dose until 3-6 months following a positive COVID-19 test has been removed.

Please remove page numbers: 1-3 dated January 2023
Please add new page numbers: 1-3 dated March 2023

Please also remove the Title Page and Table of Contents for Part 4 – Biological Products dated March 2023 and replace with the enclosed updated Title Page and Table of Contents dated March 17, 2023.
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
Immunization Programs and Vaccine Preventable Diseases Service
BC Centre for Disease Control

pc:
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