



BC Centre for Disease Control  
Provincial Health Services Authority

Immunization Programs and Vaccine Preventable Diseases Service  
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**Date:** February 12, 2024

**Administrative Circular:** 2024:02

**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 1 – Immunization Schedules, Part 2 – Immunization of Special Populations &  
Part 4 – Biological Products**

## **Part 4 – Biological Products**

### **Polio Vaccine**

#### **Imovax® Polio**

- The term 'wild' has been removed prior to polioviruses, so as to not exclude vaccine-derived polioviruses.
- INDICATIONS have been broadened to include adults arriving from areas of countries where polioviruses are circulating and adults who are known to be unimmunized (i.e., from a family/community known to refuse vaccines).
- The following additional content has been added to SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS: "Polio vaccination has been part of routine childhood immunization since the late 1950s. Adults who received any childhood vaccines almost certainly were vaccinated against polio. Thus, most adults can be assumed to have been vaccinated against polio as children, even if they do not have written documentation of vaccination, unless there are specific reasons to believe they were not vaccinated (e.g., individual grew up in a family/community known to refuse vaccines)."

**Please remove page numbers: 1-2 dated November 2022  
Please add new page numbers: 1-3 dated February 2024**

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## **Part 1 – Immunization Schedules**

### **2.4 Schedule D: Adults Age 18 and Older When Starting or Resuming Immunization**

The content for IPV has been revised to: “Routine primary immunization against polio is not considered necessary for unimmunized adults in Canada unless they are at higher risk of exposure to polioviruses or are known to be unimmunized (e.g., individual grew up in a family/community known to refuse vaccines).”

**Please remove page number:** 9 dated November 2023

**Please add page number:** 9 dated February 2024

## **Part 2 – Immunization of Special Populations**

### **Individuals New to Canada**

- Polio vaccine content has been revised to “Routine primary immunization against polio is recommended for adults at higher risk of exposure to polioviruses: refer to [Part 4 – Biological Products, Polio Vaccine](#).”
- Content related to Hepatitis C testing has been streamlined to refer to [BC Communicable Disease Control Manual, Chapter 1, Hepatitis C](#) for information on testing and interpretation of results.
- Content related to HIV has been updated to provide clarity around administration of live vaccine when HIV tests are not yet available.

**Please remove page numbers:** 1-3 dated November 2022

**Please add page numbers:** 1-3 dated February 2024

Minor updates have been made to the [World Health Organization \(WHO\) Emergency Use Authorization \(EUA\) Qualified COVID-19 Vaccines](#) and the [Guidance on the Management of Inadvertent COVID-19 Vaccine Errors](#). Both resources can be accessed on the [COVID-19 vaccination toolkit for health professionals](#).

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Julene Cranch, Interim Senior Practice Leader, BCCDC (telephone: 604-707-2555 / email: [julene.cranch@bccdc.ca](mailto:julene.cranch@bccdc.ca)).

Sincerely,



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