



BC Centre for Disease Control  
Provincial Health Services Authority

Immunization Programs and Vaccine Preventable Diseases Service  
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**Date:** October 04, 2024

**Administrative Circular:** 2024:16

**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**

**Part 4 – Biological Products**

**COVID-19 Vaccines**

**COVID-19 Vaccine Eligibility**

- The COVID-19 vaccine eligibility table has been revised based on the new mRNA COVID-19 vaccines targeting the KP.2 variant.
  - Individuals 6 months of age and older at increased risk of COVID-19 infection or severe disease are recommended to receive at least 1 dose of COVID-19 KP.2 vaccine. This includes people 65 years of age and older, Indigenous peoples and individuals residing in Indigenous communities, residents of long-term care (LTC) homes, assisted living facilities, or alternate level of care clients awaiting placement in LTC, individuals with underlying medical conditions, individuals who are pregnant, and people who provide essential community services (i.e., healthcare workers and first responders).
  - All other previously vaccinated and unvaccinated individuals 6 months of age and older who wish to receive the COVID-19 KP.2 vaccine are also eligible.
  - Moderna is the only COVID-19 vaccine product available for individuals 6 months to 11 years of age (inclusive).
  - Moderna is no longer preferentially recommended for moderately to severely immunosuppressed individuals 5 years of age and older.
  - In alignment with NACI the schedule for unvaccinated individuals 5 years of age and older who are moderately to severely immunosuppressed has been revised to 2 doses. Those who self-declare a recommendation by their health care provider are eligible to receive a 3-dose series, which may be especially important in individuals who have not had a prior SARS-CoV-2 infection as they do not benefit from hybrid immunity.

**Please remove page numbers: 1-3 dated April 2024  
Please add new page numbers: 1-3 dated October 2024**

Page 1 of 4

**COVID-19 mRNA Vaccine COMIRNATY® (Pfizer-BioNTech)**

- A new product page has been added for this vaccine.
- This vaccine is approved for use in those 12 years of age and older.
- This product has a grey vial cap and a grey label border.

**Please add new page numbers: 1-5 dated October 2024**

**COVID-19 mRNA Vaccine SPIKEVAX® (Moderna)**

- A new product page has been added for this vaccine.
- This vaccine is approved for use in those 6 months of age and older.
- This product has a royal blue vial cap and a coral blue label border.
- Note that the storage and handling information for this vaccine has changed. The vaccine can be stored refrigerated (+2°C to +8°C) for up to 50 days. After first vial puncture, the vaccine must be used within 24 hours if stored refrigerated or 12 hours if stored at room temperature (up to +25°C).

**Please add new page numbers: 1-5 dated October 2024**

**COVID-19 mRNA Vaccine COMIRNATY® Omicron XBB.1.5 (Pfizer-BioNTech)**

This product page has been removed from the BC Immunization Manual.

**Please remove page numbers: 1-5 dated April 2024**

**COVID-19 mRNA Vaccine COMIRNATY® Omicron XBB.1.5 (Pfizer-BioNTech) 5-11 Years of Age**

This product page has been removed from the BC Immunization Manual.

**Please remove page numbers: 1-5 dated April 2024**

**COVID-19 mRNA Vaccine COMIRNATY® Omicron XBB.1.5 (Pfizer-BioNTech) 6 months – 4 Years of Age**

This product page has been removed from the BC Immunization Manual.

**Please remove page numbers: 1-6 dated April 2024**

**COVID-19 mRNA Vaccine SPIKEVAX® XBB.1.5 (Moderna)**

This product page has been removed from the BC Immunization Manual.

**Please remove page numbers: 1-5 dated April 2024**

**COVID-19 mRNA Vaccine NUVAXOVID™ XBB.1.5 (Moderna)**

This product page has been removed from the BC Immunization Manual.

**Please remove page numbers: 1-4 dated April 2024**

**Please also remove the Title Page and Table of Contents for Part 4 – Biological Products dated September 2024 and replace with the enclosed updated Title Page and Table of Contents dated October 2024.**

**Appendix E – Management of Biologicals**

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

The storage, shipping and handling information for the two pediatric formulations (for those 5-11 years of age and 6 months to 4 years of age) has been removed as these formulations will not be available.

**Please remove page numbers: 1-13 dated October 2023  
Please add new page numbers: 1-12 dated October 2024**

**Guidance for Receiving and Handling the Moderna COVID-19 mRNA Vaccine**

The thawed shelf-life of the unpunctured vial in the refrigerator (+2°C to +8°C) has been revised to 50 days while the shelf-life at room temperature (+8°C to +25°C) has been revised to 12 hours.

**Please remove page numbers: 1-4 dated October 2023  
Please add new page numbers: 1-4 dated October 2024**

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

Sincerely,



Jason Wong BMSc MD CCFP MPH FRCPC  
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BC Centre for Disease Control

pc:

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