

The product specific information for the COVID-19 vaccines available in BC can be found in [Part 4: Biological Products, COVID-19 Vaccines](#).

At least one COVID-19 XBB.1.5 mRNA vaccine is recommended for everyone 6 months of age and older.<sup>A</sup> It is particularly recommended for those at increased risk of COVID-19 infection or severe disease, including:

- People 65 years of age and older
- Indigenous peoples 55 years of age and older<sup>B</sup>
- Residents of long-term care homes and other congregate living settings for older adults.
- Individuals with underlying medical conditions that place them at higher risk of severe COVID-19 (see [Appendices](#))
- Individuals who are pregnant
- Individuals residing in Indigenous communities<sup>B</sup>
- Healthcare workers
- First responders: police, fire fighters, ambulance

COVID-19 XBB.1.5 mRNA Vaccine Recommendations <sup>C</sup>			
Age	Previous COVID-19 vaccination history <sup>D</sup> prior to COVID-19 XBB.1.5	Number of doses of COVID-19 XBB.1.5 vaccine	Recommended interval between doses <sup>E</sup>
<b>6 months-4 years of age (inclusive)</b> <sup>F</sup>	• 2 or more doses	1 dose of <a href="#">Moderna</a> or <a href="#">Pfizer</a>	6 months after last dose
	• 1 dose	1 dose of <a href="#">Moderna</a> ; or 2 doses of <a href="#">Pfizer</a>	8 weeks after last dose <i>and</i> 8 weeks between doses (if 2 doses being provided)
	• 0 doses	2 doses of <a href="#">Moderna</a> ; or 3 doses of <a href="#">Pfizer</a>	8 weeks between doses
<b>5 years of age and older</b>	Regardless of previous vaccination history	1 dose of <a href="#">Moderna</a> or <a href="#">Pfizer</a> ( <a href="#">5-11 years</a> ; <a href="#">12 years and older</a> )	6 months after last dose
Moderately to severely immunosuppressed (see <a href="#">Appendix B</a> ) <b>6 months-4 years of age (inclusive)</b> <sup>G</sup>	• 3 or more doses	1 dose of <a href="#">Moderna</a> or <a href="#">Pfizer</a>	6 months after last dose
	• 2 doses	1 dose of <a href="#">Moderna</a> ; or 2 doses of <a href="#">Pfizer</a>	8 weeks after last dose <i>and</i> 8 weeks between doses (if 2 doses being provided)
	• 1 dose	2 doses of <a href="#">Moderna</a> ; or 3 doses of <a href="#">Pfizer</a>	8 weeks after last dose <i>and</i> 8 weeks between doses
	• 0 doses	3 doses of <a href="#">Moderna</a> ; or 4 doses of <a href="#">Pfizer</a>	8 weeks between doses
Moderately to severely immunosuppressed (see <a href="#">Appendix A</a> and <a href="#">Appendix B</a> ) <b>5 years of age and older</b>	• 3 or more doses	1 dose of <a href="#">Moderna</a> or <a href="#">Pfizer</a> ( <a href="#">5-11 years</a> ; <a href="#">12 years and older</a> )	6 months after last dose
	• 2 doses	1 dose of <a href="#">Moderna</a> or <a href="#">Pfizer</a> ( <a href="#">5-11 years</a> ; <a href="#">12 years and older</a> )	8 weeks after last dose
	• 1 dose	2 doses of <a href="#">Moderna</a> or <a href="#">Pfizer</a> ( <a href="#">5-11 years</a> ; <a href="#">12 years and older</a> )	8 weeks after last dose <i>and</i> 8 weeks between doses
	• 0 doses	3 doses of <a href="#">Moderna</a> or <a href="#">Pfizer</a> ( <a href="#">5-11 years</a> ; <a href="#">12 years and older</a> )	8 weeks between doses

<sup>A</sup> For those 12 years of age and older who are unwilling or unable to receive a COVID-19 mRNA vaccine, the [Novavax COVID-19 XBB.1.5](#) vaccine may be provided.

<sup>B</sup> Indigenous peoples (including First Nations, Métis and Inuit) may be disproportionately affected by COVID-19 because of longstanding inequities related to the social determinants of health due to the impacts of colonization.

<sup>C</sup> Moderna COVID-19 XBB.1.5 mRNA vaccine is the preferred product for children 6 months to 4 years age, as well as individuals who are moderately to severely immunosuppressed due to a potentially greater immune response induced by the Moderna vaccine in these populations; however, if unavailable, or upon client request, an age-appropriate Pfizer COVID-19 XBB.1.5 vaccine can be given.

<sup>D</sup> Includes any [World Health Organization Emergency Use Authorization Qualified COVID-19 Vaccines](#).

<sup>E</sup> For minimum intervals, see the respective product page in [Part 4: Biological Products, COVID-19 Vaccines](#).

<sup>F</sup> If any dose in the series is a Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine (3 mcg dose), individuals in this age group should have a total of at least 3 doses of COVID-19 vaccine with at least one of these doses being the COVID-19 XBB.1.5 formulation.

<sup>G</sup> If any dose in the series is a Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine (3 mcg dose), individuals in this age group who are moderately to severely immunosuppressed should have a total of at least 4 doses of COVID-19 vaccine with at least one of these doses being the COVID-19 XBB.1.5 formulation.

## Appendices

### Appendix A

For those 12 years of age and older, moderately to severely immunosuppressed includes those who:

- Have had a solid organ transplant and are taking immunosuppressive therapy (heart, lung, liver, kidney, pancreas or islet cells, bowel or combination organ transplant).
- Will have, are having, or are on active treatment for solid tumour or haematologic malignancies (like myeloma or leukemia):
  - Will have, are having, or in the last 12 months have received systemic treatment for a haematological malignancy, or in the last 24 months have received anti-CD20 or other B-cell depleting therapies for a haematological malignancy.
  - Will have, are having, or in the last 24 months have had a bone marrow, stem cell transplant or CAR-T<sup>H</sup> or who are still taking immunosuppressive drugs.
  - Will have, are having, or in the last 6 months have received anti-cancer systemic therapy for solid tumours (including but not limited to cytotoxic chemotherapy; molecular targeted therapy; immunotherapy; monoclonal antibodies; bone modifying agents used in the setting of metastatic disease; high dose steroids e.g., equivalent to > 20 mg/day for more than 1 month but excluding patients only receiving hormonal or bone modifying therapy in the adjuvant setting).
  - Are planned for radiation, are having or will have had radiation in the last 3 months.
  - Have a diagnosis of CLL/SLL, myeloma/plasmacytoma, or low grade lymphoma.
- Prior AIDS defining illness or prior CD4 count  $\leq 200/\text{mm}^3$  or prior CD4 fraction  $\leq 15\%$  or any detectable plasma viral load since January 2021 or HIV infection and  $\geq 65$  years old or perinatally acquired HIV infection.
- Are on active treatment with the following categories of immunosuppressive therapies:
  - In the last 2 years, been treated with anti-CD20 agents, B-cell depleting agents or similar therapeutic agents.
  - In the last 3 months, been treated with biologic agents that are significantly immunosuppressive, oral immune-suppressing drugs, steroids (orally or by injection >14 days), immune-suppressing infusions/injections or intermittent high dose steroids administered as immune suppression prior to intravenous enzyme replacement treatment.
- Have combined immune deficiencies affecting T-cells, immune dysregulation (particularly familial hemophagocytic lymphohistiocytosis) or those with type 1 interferon defects (caused by a genetic primary immunodeficiency disorder or secondary to anti-interferon autoantibodies).
- Have a moderate to severe primary immunodeficiency which has been diagnosed by an adult or pediatric immunologist and requires ongoing immunoglobulin replacement therapy (IVIG or SCIG) or the primary immunodeficiency has a confirmed genetic cause (e.g., DiGeorge syndrome, Wiskott-Aldrich syndrome).
- On dialysis (hemodialysis or peritoneal dialysis) or have stage 5 chronic kidney disease (eGFR <15 mL/min) or have glomerulonephritis and receiving steroid treatment.

### Appendix B

For children 6 months to 11 years of age, moderately to severely immunosuppressed includes those who:

- Have had a solid organ transplant (heart, lung, liver, kidney, pancreas or islet cells, bowel or combination organ transplant).
- In the last year, received systemic treatment for a haematological malignancy, including anti-CD20 or other B-cell depleting therapies.
- In the last 2 years, have had a bone marrow, stem cell transplant, CAR-T<sup>H</sup>, or is still taking immunosuppressant medications.
- In the last 6 months have received anti-cancer systemic therapy for solid tumors (including but not limited to: cytotoxic chemotherapy, molecular targeted therapy, immunotherapy, monoclonal antibodies, bone modifying agents used in the setting of metastatic disease, high dose steroids [e.g. equivalent of > 20 mg/day for more than 1 month but excluding patients only receiving hormonal or bone modifying therapy in the adjuvant setting]).

<sup>H</sup> Revaccination following HSCT or CAR-T therapy is recommended and can occur as early as 3 months post HSCT or CAR-T therapy.  
Communicable Disease Control Manual  
Chapter 2: Immunization  
Part 4 - Biological Products

- In the last 3 months, have received or are receiving radiation therapy for cancer.
- In the past year, have received anti-CD20, B-cell depleting or similar agents.
- In the last 3 months, received immunosuppressing therapies including biologic agents, oral-immune suppressing drugs, steroids (orally or by injection for a period of > 14 days), immune suppressing infusions/injections or intermittent high dose steroids administered as immune suppression prior to intravenous enzyme replacement treatment.
- On dialysis (hemodialysis or peritoneal dialysis) or have stage 5 chronic kidney disease (eGFR <15 mL/min) or have glomerulonephritis and receiving steroid treatment.
- Have a primary immunodeficiency which has been diagnosed by a pediatric immunologist.
- Prior AIDS defining illness or HIV infection with prior CD4 count  $\leq 200/\text{mm}^3$ , prior CD4  $\leq 15\%$  or detectable plasma viral load in the last year.

## **Appendix C**

Underlying health conditions includes those who have:

- Severe respiratory disorders (e.g., cystic fibrosis, severe COPD or asthma)
- Rare blood disorders (e.g., homozygous sickle cell disease, highest risk thalassemia)
- Rare metabolic disorders (e.g., urea cycle defects, methylmalonic aciduria, propionic aciduria)
- Anatomic or functional asplenia
- Diabetes treated with insulin (includes Type 1 and Type 2)
- Hematological and other cancers not included in Appendix A (e.g., chronic hematological malignancies under surveillance or active solid tumours or metastatic cancer not on treatment but undergoing surveillance)
- Significant developmental disabilities (e.g., Down Syndrome, cerebral palsy)
- Pregnant and have a serious heart disease
- Neurological or other conditions causing significant muscle weakness around lungs