BC Centre for Disease Control
Provincial Health Services Authority

Communicable Diseases and Immunization Service
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Date: **December 7, 2021** **Administrative Circular: 2021:48**

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

Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine has been indicated as the preferred vaccine for the primary series in individuals 12-29 years of age and for the booster dose in individuals 18-29 years of age.

Please remove page numbers: 1-2 dated November 24, 2021
Please add new page numbers: 1-2 dated December 7, 2021

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

- **Doses and Schedule:**
  - Footnote B has been added to indicate that Pfizer-BioNTech is the preferred vaccine for the primary series in individuals 12-29 years of age and for the booster dose in individuals 18-29 years of age due to the lower risk of myocarditis/pericarditis with this vaccine. However, if the Pfizer product is unavailable, or at the client's request, Moderna can be used provided informed consent includes the elevated risk of myocarditis/pericarditis with this product.
  - Footnote D has been revised to indicate that the preferred interval between doses is 8 weeks.
- **Booster Doses:**
  - Footnote A has been added to indicate that Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine is preferred for the booster dose in those 18-29 years of age due to the lower risk of myocarditis/pericarditis with this vaccine. However, if the Pfizer product is unavailable, or at the client's request, Moderna can be used provided informed consent includes the elevated risk of

myocarditis/pericarditis with this product.

- **Adverse Events:**
  - Content has been updated to include the observed differential rate of myocarditis/pericarditis between mRNA products and that these events are more common in males 12-29 years of age.

Please remove page numbers: 1-6 dated November 19, 2021
Please add new page numbers: 1-6 dated December 7, 2021

COVID-19 mRNA Vaccine SPIKEVAX™ (Moderna)

- **Doses and Schedule:**
  - Footnote B has been added to indicate that Pfizer-BioNTech is the preferred vaccine for the primary series in individuals 12-29 years of age and for the booster dose in individuals 18-29 years of age due to the lower risk of myocarditis/pericarditis with this vaccine. However, if the Pfizer product is unavailable, or at the client's request, Moderna can be used provided informed consent includes the elevated risk of myocarditis/pericarditis with this product.
  - Footnote D has been revised to indicate that the preferred interval between doses is 8 weeks.
- **Booster Doses:**
  - Footnote A has been added to indicate that Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine is preferred for the booster dose in those 18-29 years of age due to the lower risk of myocarditis/pericarditis with this vaccine. However, if the Pfizer product is unavailable, or at the client's request, Moderna can be used provided informed consent includes the elevated risk of myocarditis/pericarditis with this product.
- **Adverse Events:**
  - Content has been updated to include the observed differential rate of myocarditis/pericarditis between mRNA products and that these events are more common in males 12-29 years of age.

Please remove page numbers: 1-5 dated November 12, 2021
Please add new page numbers: 1-5 dated December 7, 2021

COVID-19 Vaccine VAXZEVRIA™/COVISHIELD (AstraZeneca/Verity Pharmaceuticals)

- **Contraindications:**
  - Content has been added to indicate that individuals with a history of thrombosis with thrombocytopenia following a previous dose of an adenovirus vector COVID-19 vaccine should be offered an mRNA vaccine pending advice of the involved hematologist.

- **Precautions:**
  - Individuals with a history of immune thrombocytopenia (ITP) has been added as a precaution.
- **Adverse Events:**
  - Immune thrombocytopenia (ITP) has been added as a very rare adverse event following receipt of AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine.

Please remove page numbers: 1-4 dated November 19, 2021
Please add new page numbers: 1-4 dated December 7, 2021

COVID-19 Vaccine (Ad26.COV2.S [recombinant]) (Janssen Inc.)

- **Contraindications:**
  - Content has been added to indicate that individuals with a history of thrombosis with thrombocytopenia following a previous dose of an adenovirus vector COVID-19 vaccine should only be offered an mRNA vaccine pending advice of the involved hematologist.
- **Precautions:**
  - Individuals with a history of immune thrombocytopenia (ITP) and venous thromboembolism (VTE) have been added as precautions.
- **Adverse Events:**
  - Immune thrombocytopenia (ITP) and capillary leak syndrome have been added as very rare adverse events following receipt of Janssen COVID-19 vaccine.
  - Venous thromboembolism (VTE) has been added as a rare adverse event following receipt of Janssen COVID-19 vaccine.

Please remove page numbers: 1-4 dated November 19, 2021
Please add new page numbers: 1-4 dated December 7, 2021

COVID-19 Vaccine Screening Checklist

The screening checklist has been updated as follows:

- Question #6 has been updated to include a history of a pre-existing risk of thromboembolism (Specific to Janssen vaccine only).
- Question #9 has been added to Precautions to include a history of immune thrombocytopenia (ITP) (Specific to AstraZeneca and Janssen vaccines only).

Please remove page number: 1 dated November 15, 2021
Please add new page number: 1 dated December 7, 2021

Supporting resources:

Guidance Document on the Management of Inadvertent Vaccine Errors

- Content has been added to indicate that doses of a WHO EUA approved vaccine administered to individuals less than 18 years of age will be considered valid.
- Footnote 1 has been updated to indicate that an additional mRNA vaccine administered at least 8 weeks after a second dose will be considered as a valid booster dose.

World Health Organization (WHO) Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) Qualified COVID-19 Vaccines

- COVISHIELD has been removed as a second dose option as it is no longer available in Canada.
- Footnote 2 has been updated to indicate that an additional mRNA vaccine administered at least 8 weeks following vaccination with a complete WHO EUA qualified series, will be considered as a valid booster dose.

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:

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