



BC Centre for Disease Control
Provincial Health Services Authority

Communicable Diseases and Immunization Service
655 West 12th Avenue
Vancouver, BC V5Z 4R4

Tel 604.707.2548
Fax 604.707.2515
www.bccdc.ca

Date: December 15, 2021

Administrative Circular: 2021:51

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

Booster dose eligibility has been updated to include people temporarily or permanently residing/working in an Indigenous community. Footnote C has been added to Booster Doses to indicate that eligibility includes individuals presenting to a clinic for a booster dose at least 6 months after completion of their primary series upon receipt of an invitation from the Get Vaccinated system. Footnote D has been added to indicate that all health workers and staff are eligible for a booster dose.

Please remove page numbers: 1-2 dated December 9, 2021
Please add new page numbers: 1-2 dated December 15, 2021

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

- **Administration:**
 - Content has been revised to indicate that more than one additional dose can be drawn from the vial and administered provided there is enough vaccine left in the vial for complete doses after 10 doses have been removed.
 - The 'Storage and Handling / Dilution Requirements' content has been revised to indicate that the vaccine may be at room temperature (up to +25°C) for up to 24 hours, with no more than 12 hours from the time of dilution (first puncture).

Please remove page numbers: 1-5 dated November 19, 2021
Please add new page numbers: 1-5 dated December 15, 2021

Page 1 of 3

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

- **Booster Doses:**
 - Footnote A has been added to indicate that a 0.5 mL dose of AstraZeneca vaccine should only be offered as a booster dose if a COVID-19 mRNA vaccine is contraindicated or inaccessible, or if the client refuses an mRNA vaccine. Such clients should be informed that the AstraZeneca vaccine provides lower protection against infection with COVID-19, and that it is associated with rare but serious adverse effects (e.g., Thrombosis with Thrombocytopenia Syndrome [TTS], thrombocytopenia and Guillain-Barré syndrome) which have not been seen with the mRNA vaccines.
- **Precautions:**
 - Content related to consultation with an allergist and vaccine administration in an emergency room setting for individuals with suspected hypersensitivity or non-anaphylactic allergy to COVID-19 vaccine components has been removed.

Please remove page numbers: 1-4 dated December 7, 2021
Please add new page numbers: 1-4 dated December 15, 2021

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

- **Contraindications:**
 - Content has been added to indicate that an mRNA COVID-19 vaccine should be offered with an observation period of at least 30 minutes after immunization to individuals with a history of anaphylactic reaction to a previous dose of an adenovirus vector COVID-19 vaccine or to any component of the Janssen COVID-19 vaccine.
- **Precautions:**
 - Content related to consultation with an allergist and vaccine administration in an emergency room setting for individuals with suspected hypersensitivity or non-anaphylactic allergy to COVID-19 vaccine components has been removed.

Please remove page numbers: 1-4 dated December 7, 2021
Please add new page numbers: 1-4 dated December 15, 2021

Please also remove the Title Page and Table of Contents for Part 4 – Biological Products dated November 19, 2021 and replace with the enclosed updated Title Page and Table of Contents dated December 2021.

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:

Provincial Health Officer
Dr. Bonnie Henry

Dr. Reka Gustafson
Vice President, Public Health &
Wellness, PHSA & Deputy Provincial
Health Officer

Deputy Provincial Health Officer
Dr. Martin Lavoie

BC Ministry of Health, Population &
Public Health Division:

Brian Sagar
Senior Director Communicable
Disease, Population and Public Health
Division

Bernard Achampong
Executive Director,
Public Health, Planning and Prevention,
Population and Public Health Division