



BC Centre for Disease Control
Provincial Health Services Authority

Immunization Programs and Vaccine Preventable Diseases Service
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Date: June 28, 2023

Administrative Circular: 2023:18

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 following revisions have been made:

- Pfizer Bivalent and Moderna Bivalent COVID-19 mRNA vaccines have been added to the eligibility table for use in the primary series. Monovalent and bivalent COVID-19 vaccines are interchangeable within the primary series.
- Preferential recommendation for Pfizer Bivalent as a booster dose for those 12-17 years of age has been removed to align with the Canadian Immunization Guide.
- Two footnotes related to COVID-19 revaccination following HSCT or CAR-T therapy have been revised to remove reference to use of monovalent vaccines only.

Please remove page numbers: 1-3 dated May 2023
Please add new page numbers: 1-3 dated June 2023

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

- Two footnotes have been added under DOSES AND SCHEDULE to indicate:
 - A Moderna COVID-19 mRNA vaccine is preferentially recommended in those who are moderately to severely immunosuppressed.
 - An age-appropriate Pfizer COVID-19 mRNA vaccine is preferred for those 12-29 years of age
- Consideration for use of Janssen COVID-19 vaccine in those who have a history of anaphylactic reaction to any component or to a previous dose of a COVID-19 mRNA vaccine has been removed, as the Janssen COVID-19 vaccine is no longer available.

Please remove page numbers: 1-5 dated May 2023
Please add new page numbers: 1-5 dated June 2023

Page 1 of 4

COVID-19 mRNA Vaccine COMIRNATY® (Pfizer-BioNTech) 5-11 Years of Age

A footnote has been added under DOSES AND SCHEDULE to indicate a Moderna COVID-19 mRNA vaccine is preferentially recommended in those who are moderately to severely immunosuppressed.

Please remove page numbers: 1-5 dated May 2023
Please add new page numbers: 1-5 dated June 2023

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

- The primary series dose and schedule for Pfizer bivalent COVID-19 mRNA vaccine has been added along with corresponding footnotes.
- Consideration for use of Janssen COVID-19 vaccine in those who have a history of anaphylactic reaction to any component or to a previous dose of a COVID-19 mRNA vaccine has been removed, as the Janssen COVID-19 vaccine is no longer available.

Please remove page numbers: 1-5 dated March 27, 2023
Please add new page numbers: 1-5 dated June 2023

COVID-19 Vaccine COMIRNATY® Bivalent (Pfizer-BioNTech) 5-11 Years of Age

The primary series dose and schedule for Pfizer bivalent COVID-19 mRNA vaccine has been added along with corresponding footnotes.

Please remove page numbers: 1-5 dated March 17, 2023
Please add new page numbers: 1-5 dated June 2023

COVID-19 mRNA Vaccine SPIKEVAX Bivalent™ (Moderna) Original/Omicron BA.4/5

- The primary series dose and schedule for Moderna bivalent COVID-19 mRNA vaccine has been added along with corresponding footnotes.
- Consideration for use of Janssen COVID-19 vaccine in those who have a history of anaphylactic reaction to any component or to a previous dose of a COVID-19 mRNA vaccine has been removed, as the Janssen COVID-19 vaccine is no longer available.

Please remove page numbers: 1-4 dated May 2023
Please add new page numbers: 1-4 dated June 2023

COVID-19 Vaccine Ad26.COV2.S (recombinant) Jcovden™ (Janssen)

This product page has been removed from the BC Immunization Manual, as this product is no longer marketed in Canada.

Please remove page numbers: 1-4 dated May 2023

COVID-19 Vaccine Screening Checklist

Screening questions specific to Janssen COVID-19 vaccine have been removed.

Please remove page number: 1 dated March 2023

Please add new page number: 1 dated June 2023

Immune globulins

Rabies Immune Globulin Imogam® Rabies Pasteurized

This product page has been removed from the BC Immunization Manual, as this product is no longer marketed in Canada.

Please remove page numbers: 1-3 dated September 2020

Please also remove the Title Page and Table of Contents for Part 4 – Biological Products dated May 2023 and replace with the enclosed updated Title Page and Table of Contents dated June 2023.

Appendix E – Management of Biologicals

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

Minor revisions were made to the content under “Thaw each vial before use” to simplify it.

Please remove page numbers: 1-4 dated May 2023

Please add new page numbers: 1-4 dated June 2023

The following resources from the [COVID-19 vaccination toolkit for health professionals](#) have been updated:

- [Immunosuppressive Therapies and Timing with COVID-19 Vaccination](#)
- [COVID-19 mRNA Vaccine Comparison Table](#)
- [COVID-19 Vaccination Schedule Infographic](#)
- [World Health Organization \(WHO\) Emergency Use Authorization \(EUA\) Qualified COVID-19 Vaccines](#)

Please note the following resources have been removed from the [COVID-19 vaccination toolkit for health professionals](#):

- Second dose considerations for AstraZeneca/COVISHIELD first dose recipients Q&A
- Updated recommendations for AstraZeneca and COVISHIELD vaccines letter for physicians
- Booster dose considerations for those who received 1-dose Janssen vaccine Q&A

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,



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