



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: April 20, 2021

Administrative Circular: 2021:17

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 mRNA Vaccine BNT162b2 (Pfizer-BioNTech)

- Footnote A has been added to indicate that minimum age for vaccine receipt is based on year of birth (i.e., individuals who will be turning 16 years of age within the current calendar year), per Provincial Health Officer (PHO) recommendations.
- Footnote B has been updated to indicate that while the vaccine series should be completed with the same COVID-19 vaccine product, if the product used for the first dose is unknown or unavailable, the second dose may be given with an available mRNA product.

Please remove page numbers: 1-5 dated March 31, 2021

Please add new page numbers: 1-5 dated April 20, 2021

COVID-19 mRNA Vaccine mRNA-1273 (Moderna)

- Footnote A has been added to indicate that minimum age for vaccine receipt is based on year of birth (i.e., individuals who will be turning 18 years of age within the current calendar year), per PHO recommendations.
- Footnote B has been added to indicate that adolescents 16-17 years of age who are [clinically extremely vulnerable](#) may receive the Moderna vaccine if the Pfizer-BioNTech product is unavailable, per PHO recommendations.
- Footnote C has been updated to indicate that while the vaccine series should be completed with the same COVID-19 vaccine product, if the product used for the first dose is unknown or unavailable, the second dose may be given with an available mRNA product.

Please remove page numbers: 1-4 dated March 10, 2021

Please add new page numbers: 1-4 dated April 20, 2021

Page 1 of 3

COVID-19 Vaccine (ChAdOx1-S [recombinant]) (AstraZeneca/COVISHIELD)

- The recommended age indication has been revised to 40 years of age and older, per PHO recommendations. The minimum age for vaccine receipt is based on year of birth (i.e., the vaccine may be offered to individuals who will be turning 40 years of age within the current calendar year), per BC Government recommendations.
- Storage and Handling recommendations have been clarified to indicate that while the vial can be re-refrigerated after first vial puncture, the cumulative storage time at room temperature must not exceed 6 hours, and the *total* cumulative storage time must not exceed 48 hours. Once 48 hours after first puncture has been reached, the vial must be discarded.

Please remove page numbers: 1-4 dated March 30, 2021

Please add new page numbers: 1-4 dated April 20, 2021

COVID-19 Vaccine Aftercare Sheet

- The COVID-19 Vaccine Aftercare sheet has been updated to include information specific to the AstraZeneca/COVISHIELD COVID-19 vaccines. This aftercare sheet can be provided to recipients of any and all COVID-19 vaccines.

Please remove page numbers: 1-2 (undated)

Please add new page numbers: 1-2 (undated)

AstraZeneca/COVISHIELD COVID-19 Vaccine Aftercare Sheet

- The AstraZeneca/COVISHIELD COVID-19 Vaccine Aftercare sheet has been removed as the [COVID-19 Vaccine Aftercare sheet](#) has been updated to include information specific to the AstraZeneca/COVISHIELD COVID-19 vaccines.

Please remove page numbers: 1-2 dated March 2021

Please also remove the Title Page and Table of Contents for Part 4 – Biological Products dated March 31, 2021 and replace with the enclosed updated Title Page and Table of Contents dated April 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