



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](http://www.bccdc.ca)

**Date: May 7, 2021**

**Administrative Circular: 2021:19**

**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)**

The product page has been revised as follows:

- **Indications:**
  - The authorized age for use has been revised to 12 years of age and older per [Health Canada](#). The Doses and Schedule section continues to indicate '16 years of age and older' as COVID-19 vaccine is not currently being offered to those less than 16 years of age.
- **Precautions:**
  - Content regarding the immunization of individuals who are immunosuppressed, have an autoimmune condition, or who are pregnant or breastfeeding has been revised to indicate that they should be offered vaccine (revised from the previous recommendation that they 'may' be offered COVID-19 vaccine).
  - Footnote B - the link has been revised to the updated SOGC statement.
  - Footnote C has been added which refers to a recent [US study](#) supporting the safety of mRNA vaccines among pregnant persons.
  - The recommendation to defer COVID-19 vaccination for at least 90 days following receipt of anti-SARS-CoV-2 monoclonal antibodies or convalescent plasma for treatment or prevention of COVID-19 has been updated to indicate that deferral is not required following treatment with tocilizumab or sarilumab.

**Please remove page numbers: 1-5 dated April 20, 2021**  
**Please add new page numbers: 1-5 dated May 7, 2021**

Page 1 of 4

### **COVID-19 mRNA Vaccine mRNA-1273 (Moderna)**

The product page has been revised as follows:

- **Precautions:**

- Content regarding the immunization of individuals who are immunosuppressed, have an autoimmune condition, or who are pregnant or breastfeeding has been revised to indicate that they should be offered vaccine (revised from the previous recommendation that they 'may' be offered COVID-19 vaccine).
- Footnote B - the link has been revised to the updated SOGC statement.
- Footnote C has been added which refers to a recent [US study](#) supporting the safety of mRNA vaccines among pregnant persons.
- The recommendation to defer COVID-19 vaccination for at least 90 days following receipt of anti-SARS-CoV-2 monoclonal antibodies or convalescent plasma for treatment or prevention of COVID-19 has been updated to indicate that deferral is not required following treatment with tocilizumab or sarilumab.

**Please remove page numbers:** 1-4 dated April 20, 2021

**Please add new page numbers:** 1-4 dated May 7, 2021

### **COVID-19 Vaccine (ChAdOx1-S [recombinant]) (AstraZeneca/Verity Pharmaceuticals)**

The product page has been revised as follows:

- **Contraindications:**

- A new contraindication has been added re: thrombosis with thrombocytopenia following a previous dose of an adenovirus vector COVID-19 vaccine.

- **Precautions:**

- Content regarding the immunization of individuals who are immunosuppressed, have an autoimmune condition, or who are pregnant or breastfeeding has been revised to indicate that they should be offered vaccine (revised from the previous recommendation that they 'may' be offered COVID-19 vaccine).
- Footnote B - the link has been revised to the updated SOGC statement.
- New precaution added re: individuals who have experienced a previous CVST with thrombocytopenia or heparin-induced thrombocytopenia (HIT).
- The recommendation to defer COVID-19 vaccination for at least 90 days following receipt of anti-SARS-CoV-2 monoclonal antibodies or convalescent plasma for treatment or prevention of COVID-19 has been updated to indicate that deferral is not required following treatment with tocilizumab or sarilumab.

**Please remove page numbers:** 1-4 dated April 20, 2021

**Please add new page numbers:** 1-4 dated May 7, 2021

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

This is a new product page that has been added.

**Please add new page numbers:** 1-4 dated May 7, 2021

### **COVID-19 Vaccination Aftercare Sheet**

The COVID-19 Vaccination Aftercare Sheet has been updated as follows:

- Content regarding notification for when to return for dose #2 has been updated.
- Janssen vaccine has been added to the content related to rare cases of serious blood clots and/or bleeding following vaccination.
  - The rate of such events has been revised to 1 case in 100,000 vaccinated people.
  - The recommended timeframe for monitoring for symptoms has been revised to 4-28 days.
- Content added indicating that pregnant people requiring discomfort or fever control should use acetaminophen (Tylenol®) and not ibuprofen (Advil®).
- Additional logos have been added.

**Please remove page numbers:** 1-2 dated (no date)  
**Please add new page numbers:** 1-2 dated May 7, 2021

### **COVID-19 Vaccine Screening Checklist**

The screening checklist has been updated as follows:

- Question 2 under Contraindications has been added regarding adverse events following the first dose of COVID-19 vaccine.
- Question 8 related to a previous cerebral venous sinus thrombosis (CVST) with thrombocytopenia or heparin-induced thrombocytopenia (HIT) has been added under Precautions.
- Question 9 regarding receipt of specific medications for COVID-19 prevention or treatment within the last 3 months has been slightly re-worded, with the recommendation that deferral is not required following treatment with tocilizumab or sarilumab.
- The question regarding previous lab-confirmed COVID-19 disease within the last 3 months has been removed as limited vaccine supply is no longer a concern and such individuals should be offered a complete series of COVID-19 vaccine if they are no longer infectious and symptoms have resolved.

**Please remove page number:** 1 dated March 2021  
**Please add new page number:** 1 dated May 7, 2021

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

The [COVID-19 Vaccines HealthLinkBC File](#) is being updated and will be posted shortly.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Stephanie Meier, Senior Practice Leader, BCCDC (telephone: 604-707-2577 / email: [stephanie.meier@bccdc.ca](mailto: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