



BC Centre for Disease Control
Provincial Health Services Authority

Communicable Diseases and Immunization Service
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Date: March 18, 2021

Administrative Circular: 2021:10

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 ChAdOx1-S [recombinant] (AstraZeneca/Verity Pharmaceuticals)

- Footnote A which addressed the NACI recommendation for use of the vaccine in those 18-64 years of age has been deleted.
- The Administration section has been revised to include:
 - Content regarding the pooling of residual vaccine from up to three vials to constitute a full dose of vaccine provided the vials are from the same manufacturer and lot number. Further information on how to do this safely to minimize the risk of microbial contaminants and maintain product quality has been added as an addendum within the product page.
 - The vaccine can be pre-loaded into a syringe for up to 6 hours at room temperature.
 - The upper limit for room temperature has been revised to align with the product monographs for COVISHIELD and the AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine.
 - During use, the vials can be handled in room light conditions.

Please remove page numbers: 1-3 dated March 2021
Please add new page numbers: 1-4 dated March 18, 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
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pc:

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