



BC Centre for Disease Control
Provincial Health Services Authority

Communicable Diseases and Immunization Service
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Date: January 8, 2021

Administrative Circular: 2021:01

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 mRNA Vaccine BNT162b2 (Pfizer-BioNTech)

The product page has been revised as follows:

- Doses and Schedule:
 - Revised to individuals 16 years of age and older, with a recommended interval of 35 days between doses. Associated footnote B indicates an acceptable range for administration of the second dose is 21-42 days after the first dose.
- Administration:
 - Content added indicating that if there is enough vaccine left in the vial for a complete 0.3 mL dose after 5 doses have been removed from the vial, another dose can be drawn and administered. However, two separate vials should not be used to make up a full dose.
 - Addition of footnote D which refers to a new addendum to Appendix E – Management of Biologicals specific to [Guidance for Receiving and Handling the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 mRNA Vaccine \(including dry ice procedures\)](#).
- Precautions:
 - Content related to populations with immunosuppression, autoimmune disorders, or those who are pregnant or breastfeeding, has been revised to indicate that a complete COVID-19 vaccine series may be offered to such individuals in the authorized age group if a risk assessment deems that the benefits outweigh the potential risks for the individual, and if informed consent includes discussion about the absence of evidence on the use of COVID-19 vaccine in these populations. A link to the Society of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists of Canada (SOGC) [Statement on COVID-19 Vaccination in Pregnancy](#) has been added for more information for those who are pregnant or breastfeeding.

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COVID-19 mRNA Vaccine mRNA-1273 (Moderna)

The product page has been revised as follows:

- Doses and Schedule:
 - The recommended interval between doses has been revised to 35 days. Associated footnote B indicates an acceptable range for administration of the second dose is 21-42 days after the first dose.
- Administration:
 - Content added indicating that if there is enough vaccine left in the vial for a complete 0.5 mL dose after 10 doses have been removed from the vial, another dose can be drawn and administered. However, two separate vials should not be used to make up a full dose.
- Precautions:
 - Content related to populations with immunosuppression, autoimmune disorders, or those who are pregnant or breastfeeding, has been revised to indicate that a complete COVID-19 vaccine series may be offered to such individuals in the authorized age group if a risk assessment deems that the benefits outweigh the potential risks for the individual, and if informed consent includes discussion about the absence of evidence on the use of COVID-19 vaccine in these populations. A link to the Society of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists of Canada (SOGC) [Statement on COVID-19 Vaccination in Pregnancy](#) has been added for more information for those who are pregnant or breastfeeding.

COVID-19 Vaccine Screening Checklist

An introductory paragraph has been added to the Vaccine Screening Checklist to indicate that the **only** contraindication to receipt of a COVID-19 vaccine is a history of anaphylaxis to a previous dose or to a component of the vaccine. All other questions listed in the checklist are related to precautions for immunization for which additional information can be found in the BC Immunization Manual, [Part 4 – Biological Products, COVID-19 vaccines](#).

COVID-19 mRNA Vaccine Healthfile (Interim)

The COVID-19 mRNA Vaccine Healthfile (interim) has been re-organized to include vaccine contraindications under the section titled “Who should not get the vaccine?”, and vaccine precautions under the section titled “Are there other considerations to getting the vaccine?”.

Please remove the following pages:

- **COVID-19 mRNA Vaccine (Pfizer):** pages 1-3 dated December 23, 2020
- **COVID-19 mRNA Vaccine (Moderna):** pages 1-2 dated December 29, 2020
- **Healthfile (Interim):** pages 1-2 dated December 23, 2020
- **Vaccine Screening Checklist:** page 1 dated December 23, 2020

Please add the following pages:

- **COVID-19 mRNA Vaccine BNT162b2:** pages 1-3 dated January 8, 2021
- **COVID-19 mRNA Vaccine (Moderna):** pages 1-3 dated January 8, 2021
- **Healthfile (Interim):** pages 1-2 dated January 8, 2021
- **Vaccine Screening Checklist:** page 1 dated January 8, 2021

Appendix E: Management of Biologicals

Guidance for Receiving and Handling the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 mRNA Vaccine (including dry ice procedures)

An addendum to Appendix E: Management of Biologicals has been added for further guidance on receiving and handling the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 mRNA Vaccine.

Please add the following pages: 1-11 dated December 23, 2020

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

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