



BC Centre for Disease Control  
Provincial Health Services Authority

Immunization Programs and Vaccine Preventable Diseases 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: March 17, 2023**

**Administrative Circular: 2023:09**

**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 Eligibility**

- The 'Fall 2022 Booster' section has been revised to 'Booster Dose.' The corresponding footnotes have been updated accordingly.
- The minimum interval for a booster dose from completion of the primary series or a previous booster dose has been revised from 3 months to at least 5 months. NOTE: Any earlier booster doses provided with a minimum interval of 3 months will remain valid.
- Moderna Bivalent (Original/Omicron OR Original/Omicron BA.4/5) has been added to the eligibility criteria row for individuals 5-11 years of age. NOTE: Moderna Bivalent products are only for those 6-11 years of age.
- The 12-17 years of age and the 18 years of age and older rows have been combined into a single row for individuals 12 years of age and older.
- Spring 2023 Booster Dose eligibility criteria has been added. A bivalent COVID-19 mRNA (BA.4/5) vaccine should be used for the Spring 2023 Booster Dose.
- The following footnote has been added for consideration around hybrid immunity "Individuals who have had at least 2 doses of mRNA vaccine and have had a COVID-19 infection are well protected against serious disease and hospitalization; however, for those who wish to receive an additional dose, an interval of 6 months is recommended between vaccine or infection whichever was more recent."

**Please remove page numbers: 1-3 dated March 2023**  
**Please add new page numbers: 1-3 dated March 17, 2023**

Page 1 of 6

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

- DOSES AND SCHEDULE: The minimum interval for a booster dose from completion of the primary series or a previous booster dose has been revised to at least 5 months.
- BOOSTER DOSES: Content has been revised to link to the COVID-19 Eligibility page for booster dose recommendations.
- SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS: Content related to deferral of a COVID-19 booster dose until 3-6 months following a positive COVID-19 test has been removed.

**Please remove page numbers:** 1-6 dated January 2023

**Please add new page numbers:** 1-5 dated March 2023

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

- DOSES AND SCHEDULE and BOOSTER DOSES: The minimum interval for a booster dose from completion of the primary series or a previous booster dose has been revised to at least 5 months.
- SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS: Content related to deferral of a COVID-19 booster dose until 3-6 months following a positive COVID-19 test has been removed.

**Please remove page numbers:** 1-6 dated January 2023

**Please add new page numbers:** 1-5 dated March 2023

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

- DOSES AND SCHEDULE: The minimum interval for a booster dose from completion of the primary series or a previous booster dose has been revised to at least 5 months.
- BOOSTER DOSES: Spring 2023 booster dose recommendations have been added. For individuals for whom a Spring 2023 booster dose may be offered, the following footnote has been added for consideration around hybrid immunity “Individuals who have had at least 2 doses of mRNA vaccine and have had a COVID-19 infection are well protected against serious disease and hospitalization; however, for those who wish to receive an additional dose, an interval of 6 months is recommended between vaccine or infection whichever was more recent.”
- SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS: Content related to deferral of a COVID-19 booster dose until 3-6 months following a positive COVID-19 test has been removed.

**Please remove page numbers:** 1-4 dated March 2023

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

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

- DOSES AND SCHEDULE: The minimum interval for a booster dose from completion of the primary series or a previous booster dose has been revised to at least 5 months.
- SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS: Content related to deferral of COVID-19 booster dose until 3-6 months following a positive COVID-19 test has been replaced with “Individuals who have had at least 2 doses of mRNA vaccine and have had a COVID-19 infection are well protected against serious disease and hospitalization; however, for those who wish to receive an additional dose, an interval of 6 months is recommended between vaccine or infection whichever was more recent.”

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

**COVID-19 mRNA Vaccine SPIKEVAX™ (Moderna) 6 Years of Age and Older**

- DOSES AND SCHEDULE: The minimum interval for a booster dose from completion of the primary series or a previous booster dose has been revised to at least 5 months.
- BOOSTER DOSES: Content has been revised to link to the COVID-19 Eligibility page for booster dose recommendations.
- SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS: Content related to deferral of a COVID-19 booster dose until 3-6 months following a positive COVID-19 test has been removed.

**Please remove page numbers:** 1-5 dated January 2023  
**Please add new page numbers:** 1-4 dated March 2023

**COVID-19 mRNA Vaccine SPIKEVAX Bivalent™ (Moderna) Original/Omicron**

- This product is now approved by Health Canada for use in individuals 6 years of age and older. INDICATIONS and DOSES AND SCHEDULES have been updated to reflect this.
- This vaccine is not intended for the Spring 2023 booster program; however, this vaccine may be provided if a bivalent BA.4/5 COVID-19 vaccine is unavailable.
- BOOSTER DOSES: Spring 2023 booster dose recommendations have been added. For individuals for whom a Spring 2023 booster dose may be offered, the following footnote has been added for consideration around hybrid immunity “Individuals who have had at least 2 doses of mRNA vaccine and have had a COVID-19 infection are well protected against serious disease and hospitalization; however, for those who wish to receive an additional dose, an interval of 6 months is recommended between vaccine or infection whichever was more recent.”
- SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS: Content related to deferral of a COVID-19 booster dose until 3-6 months following a positive COVID-19 test has been removed.

**Please remove page numbers:** 1-4 dated January 27, 2023  
**Please add new page numbers:** 1-5 dated March 2023

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

- INDICATIONS: The age indication of this product has been expanded to 6 years of age and older. This product may be considered in individuals 6 to 17 years of age if informed consent includes discussion that this vaccine has not yet been approved for use in this age group. DOSES AND SCHEDULE content has been updated to reflect this.
- BOOSTER DOSES: Spring 2023 booster dose recommendations have been added. For individuals for whom a Spring 2023 booster dose may be offered, the following footnote has been added for consideration around hybrid immunity “Individuals who have had at least 2 doses of mRNA vaccine and have had a COVID-19 infection are well protected against serious disease and hospitalization; however, for those who wish to receive an additional dose, an interval of 6 months is recommended between vaccine or infection whichever was more recent.”
- SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS: Content related to deferral of a COVID-19 booster dose until 3-6 months following a positive COVID-19 test has been removed.

**Please remove page numbers:** 1-4 dated January 27, 2023

**Please add new page numbers:** 1-5 dated March 2023

**COVID-19 Vaccine ChAdOx1-S (recombinant) VAXZEVRIA™ (AstraZeneca)**

As the AstraZeneca COVID-19 Vaccine is no longer available in BC, the product page has been removed from the BC Immunization Manual.

**Please remove page numbers:** 1-4 dated November 4, 2022

**COVID-19 Vaccine Ad26.COVS.2.S (recombinant) JCOVDEN™ (Janssen)**

- SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS: Content related to deferral of a COVID-19 booster dose until 3-6 months following a positive COVID-19 test has been removed.

**Please remove page numbers:** 1-4 dated November 4, 2022

**Please add new page numbers:** 1-4 dated March 2023

**COVID-19 Vaccine NUVAXOVID™ (Novavax)**

- Content related to the booster dose within DOSES AND SCHEDULE has been moved to footnote F.
- BOOSTER DOSES: Content has been revised to link to the COVID-19 Eligibility page for booster dose recommendations.
- SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS: Content related to deferral of a COVID-19 booster dose until 3-6 months following a positive COVID-19 test has been removed.

**Please remove page numbers:** 1-3 dated January 2023

**Please add new page numbers:** 1-3 dated March 2023

**Please also remove the Title Page and Table of Contents for Part 4 – Biological Products dated March 2023 and replace with the enclosed updated Title Page and Table of Contents dated March 17, 2023.**

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 MHS Sc FRCPC FACPM  
Medical Director  
Immunization Programs and Vaccine Preventable Diseases Service  
BC Centre for Disease Control

pc:

Provincial Health Officer  
Dr. Bonnie Henry

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