



BC Centre for Disease Control
Provincial Health Services Authority

Immunization Programs and Vaccine Preventable Diseases Service
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Date: April 8, 2024

Administrative Circular: 2024:07

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

- Spring 2024 Booster Dose Recommendations were added. Individuals aged 65 years and older, Indigenous peoples aged 55 years and older, residents of long-term care/assisted living facilities or alternate level of care clients awaiting placement in LTC, and individuals 6 months of age and older who are moderately to severely immunosuppressed are recommended to receive an additional dose of COVID-19 XBB.1.5 vaccine 6 months following their last dose (with a minimum interval of 3 months). NOTE: Eligible individuals should receive the Spring 2024 Booster Dose before the end of June 2024 to support an adequate interval between doses for a potential Fall 2024 program.
- Individuals 6 months of age and older who have not received at least one dose of the COVID-19 XBB.1.5 formulation remain eligible for this dose. All individuals are recommended to have at least 1 dose of the COVID-19 XBB.1.5 vaccine.
- The “COVID-19 XBB.1.5 mRNA Vaccine Recommendations” table has been revised to include additional details regarding recommended doses based on COVID-19 XBB.1.5 vaccination history. Corresponding footnotes have been updated accordingly.
- Appendix C outlining individuals with underlying health conditions was removed.
- Moderately to severely immunosuppressed individuals 5 years of age and older who are initiating vaccination should receive 2 doses of COVID-19 XBB.1.5 vaccine. However, if any dose in the series is a non-XBB.1.5 COVID-19 vaccine, a total of at least 3 doses of COVID-19 vaccine is recommended with at least one of these doses provided as COVID-19 XBB.1.5 formulation. New recipients of HSCT or CART should receive 3 doses, regardless of formulation.

Please remove page numbers: 1-3 dated December 2023
Please add new page numbers: 1-3 dated April 2024

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COVID-19 mRNA Vaccine COMIRNATY® Omicron XBB.1.5 (Pfizer-BioNTech)

- **DOSES AND SCHEDULE:**
 - Additional details regarding recommended doses based on COVID-19 XBB.1.5 vaccination history have been added.
 - Spring 2024 Booster dose and schedule has been added.
 - Moderately to severely immunosuppressed individuals 5 years of age and older who are initiating vaccination should receive 2 doses of COVID-19 XBB.1.5 vaccine. However, if any dose in the series is a non-XBB.1.5 COVID-19 vaccine, a total of at least 3 doses of COVID-19 vaccine is recommended with at least one of these doses provided as COVID-19 XBB.1.5 formulation. New recipients of HSCT or CART should receive 3 doses, regardless of formulation.
- **BOOSTER DOSES:** Spring 2024 Booster Dose recommendations have been added.
- **ADVERSE EVENTS:** Additional content has been added regarding the decreased likelihood of myocarditis and/or pericarditis for individuals 12-29 years of age due to the use of a single dose schedule for most individuals in this age group and potentially due to a lower dosage of the available Moderna COVID-19 vaccine.

Please remove page numbers: 1-5 dated October 2023

Please add new page numbers: 1-5 dated April 2024

COVID-19 mRNA Vaccine COMIRNATY® Omicron XBB.1.5 (Pfizer-BioNTech) 5-11 Years of Age

- **DOSES AND SCHEDULE:**
 - Additional details regarding recommended doses based on COVID-19 XBB.1.5 vaccination history have been added.
 - Spring 2024 Booster dose and schedule has been added.
 - Moderately to severely immunosuppressed individuals 5 years of age and older who are initiating vaccination should receive 2 doses of COVID-19 vaccine. However, if any dose in the series is a non-XBB.1.5 COVID-19 vaccine, a total of at least 3 doses of COVID-19 vaccine is recommended with at least one of these doses provided as COVID-19 XBB.1.5 formulation. New recipients of HSCT or CART should receive 3 doses, regardless of formulation.
- **BOOSTER DOSES:** Spring 2024 Booster Dose recommendations have been added.
- **ADVERSE EVENTS:** Additional content has been added regarding the decreased likelihood of myocarditis and/or pericarditis for individuals 12-29 years of age due to the use of a single dose schedule for most individuals in this age group and potentially due to a lower dosage of the available Moderna COVID-19 vaccine.

Please remove page numbers: 1-5 dated December 2023

Please add new page numbers: 1-5 dated April 2024

COVID-19 mRNA Vaccine COMIRNATY® Omicron XBB.1.5 (Pfizer-BioNTech) 6 months – 4 years of age

- DOSES AND SCHEDULE:
 - Additional details regarding recommended doses based on COVID-19 XBB.1.5 vaccination history have been added.
 - Spring 2024 Booster dose and schedule has been added.
- BOOSTER DOSES: Spring 2024 Booster Dose recommendations have been added.
- ADVERSE EVENTS: Additional content has been added regarding the decreased likelihood of myocarditis and/or pericarditis for individuals 12-29 years of age due to the use of a single dose schedule for most individuals in this age group and potentially due to a lower dosage of the available Moderna COVID-19 vaccine.

Please remove page numbers: 1-5 dated October 2023
Please add new page numbers: 1-6 dated April 2024

COVID-19 mRNA Vaccine SPIKEVAX® XBB.1.5 (Moderna)

- DOSES AND SCHEDULE:
 - Additional details regarding recommended doses based on COVID-19 XBB.1.5 vaccination history have been added.
 - Spring 2024 Booster dose and schedule has been added.
 - Recommendations for moderately to severely immunosuppressed individuals are now presented in two tables according to age.
 - Moderately to severely immunosuppressed individuals 5 years of age and older who are initiating vaccination should receive 2 doses of COVID-19 XBB.1.5 vaccine. However, if any dose in the series is a non-XBB.1.5 COVID-19 vaccine, a total of at least 3 doses of COVID-19 vaccine is recommended with at least one of these doses provided as COVID-19 XBB.1.5 formulation. New recipients of HSCT or CART should receive 3 doses, regardless of formulation.
- BOOSTER DOSES: Spring 2024 Booster Dose recommendations have been added.
- ADVERSE EVENTS: Additional content has been added regarding the decreased likelihood of myocarditis and/or pericarditis for individuals 12-29 years of age due to the use of a single dose schedule for most individuals in this age group and potentially due to a lower dosage of the available Moderna COVID-19 vaccine.

Please remove page numbers: 1-4 dated October 2023
Please add new page numbers: 1-5 dated April 2024

COVID-19 Vaccine Nuvaxovid™ XBB.1.5 (Novavax)

- **DOSES AND SCHEDULE:**
 - The two-dose recommendation for unvaccinated immunocompetent individuals has been removed as only a single dose is recommended per NACI.
 - Additional details regarding recommended doses based on COVID-19 XBB.1.5 vaccination history have been added.
 - Moderately to severely immunosuppressed individuals 12 years of age and older who are initiating vaccination should receive 2 doses of COVID-19 XBB.1.5 vaccine. However, if any dose in the series is a non-XBB.1.5 COVID-19 vaccine, a total of at least 3 doses of COVID-19 vaccine is recommended with at least one of these doses provided as COVID-19 XBB.1.5 formulation. New recipients of HSCT or CART should receive 3 doses, regardless of formulation.
 - Spring 2024 Booster dose and schedule has been added.
- **BOOSTER DOSES:** Spring 2024 Booster Dose recommendations have been added.

Please remove page numbers: 1-3 dated December 22, 2023
Please add new page numbers: 1-4 dated April 2024

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Julene Cranch, Interim Senior Practice Leader, BCCDC (telephone: 604-707-2555 / email: julene.cranch@bccdc.ca)

Sincerely,



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BC Centre for Disease Control

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