



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

Date: October 11, 2022

Administrative Circular: 2022:40

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 Vaccine Eligibility

- The following content has been revised under Fall 2022 Booster Dose:
 - The ordering of the rows has been adjusted to age ascending order.
 - Pfizer Bivalent COVID-19 vaccine has been added to the fall booster dose recommendations and is approved for those 12 years of age and older.
 - Moderna Bivalent COVID-19 vaccine is preferred for those who are moderately to severely immunosuppressed for individuals 12 years of age and older.
 - Monovalent COVID-19 vaccines have been removed for those 12 years of age and older, however a footnote has been added to indicate that a monovalent vaccine can be provided if a COVID-19 Bivalent vaccine is unavailable or upon client request.

Please remove page numbers: 1-3 dated September 23, 2022
Please add new page numbers: 1-3 dated October 11, 2022

COVID-19 Vaccine COMIRNATY® (Pfizer-BioNTech) Bivalent

- A new biological product page has been developed for COMIRNATY® (Pfizer-BioNTech) Bivalent (Original/Omicron BA.4/BA.5).
- This vaccine is supplied with a gray vial cap and gray label border. NOTE: This is the same colour convention as the monovalent Comirnaty® (Pfizer-BioNTech) Adult/Adolescent (Gray Vial Cap).
- The COMIRNATY® (Pfizer-BioNTech) Bivalent vaccine has been authorized for booster doses in those 12 years of age and older.
- This vaccine does not require dilution.

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Please add new page numbers: 1-4 dated October 11, 2022

COVID-19 mRNA Vaccine Spikevax™ Bivalent (Moderna)

- A footnote has been added to indicate the Moderna Bivalent vaccine is the preferred product for those 12 years of age and older who are moderately to severely immunosuppressed.
- Content under Booster Doses has been revised to indicate individuals who have received a monovalent or bivalent COVID-19 mRNA vaccine as part of the fall 2022 booster program do not require further booster doses at this time.

Please remove page numbers: 1-4 dated September 14, 2022
Please add new page numbers: 1-4 dated October 11, 2022

The following COVID-19 vaccine product pages have been updated to indicate the following:

- The table within the Booster Dose section has been updated to incorporate the Pfizer Bivalent COVID-19 vaccine.

COVID-19 Vaccine Comirnaty® (Pfizer-BioNTech) Adult/Adolescent (Gray Vial Cap)

Please remove page numbers: 1-5 dated September 14, 2022
Please add new page numbers: 1-5 dated October 11, 2022

COVID-19 Vaccine Comirnaty® (Pfizer-BioNTech) Adult/Adolescent (Purple Vial Cap)

Please remove page numbers: 1-5 dated September 14, 2022
Please add new page numbers: 1-5 dated October 11, 2022

COVID-19 Vaccine SPIKEVAX™ (Moderna) 6 Years of Age and Older (Red Vial Cap)

Please remove page numbers: 1-5 dated September 14, 2022
Please add new page numbers: 1-5 dated October 11, 2022

Monkeypox Vaccine

Smallpox and Monkeypox Vaccine (Live attenuated, non-replicating): IMVAMUNE®

The deltoid site has been added as an alternate site for ID administration for IMVAMUNE®.

Please remove page numbers: 1-4 dated September 27, 2022

Please add new page numbers: 1-4 dated October 11, 2022

The [Monkeypox Vaccine Client Information Sheet](#) has been revised to indicate that vaccine recipients who would like to participate in a study monitoring the safety of the vaccine can go to <https://bcchr.ca/vec/research/canvas-monkeypox> for more information and/or email canvas@bcchr.ubc.ca.

Please also remove the Title Page and Table of Contents for Part 4 – Biological Products dated September 23, 2022 and replace with the enclosed updated Title Page and Table of Contents dated October 2022.

The [COVID-19 mRNA Vaccine Comparison Table](#) has been updated. The updated resource will be posted on the [COVID-19 vaccination toolkit for health professionals](#) under General COVID-19 vaccine information.

Appendix E – Management of Biologicals

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

Content for the Pfizer Bivalent vaccine preparation has been added under “Temperature Requirements for Shipping and Storage upon Receipt of the Vaccine”.

Please remove page numbers: 1-13 dated September 23, 2022

Please add new page numbers: 1-14 dated October 11, 2022

Guidance for Receiving and Handling the Moderna COVID-19 mRNA Vaccine

Content under ‘Thaw each vial before use’ has been updated to include the thawing time for the Moderna Bivalent vaccine preparation.

Please remove page numbers: 1-4 dated July 22, 2022

Please add new page numbers: 1-4 dated October 11, 2022

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 MHS Sc FRCPC FACPM
Medical Director
Communicable Diseases & Immunization 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