



BC Centre for Disease Control  
Provincial Health Services Authority

Immunization Programs and Vaccine Preventable Diseases Service  
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Date: November 14, 2023

Administrative Circular: 2023:30

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, Introduction, Part 2 – Immunization of Special Populations, Part 4 – Biological Products & Supporting Documents**

**Introduction**

**Guidance for Influenza Vaccine Delivery in the Presence of COVID-19**

The 'Guidance for Influenza Vaccine Delivery in the Presence of COVID-19' has been removed from the Introduction section. Healthcare providers should refer to the [Infection prevention and control guidance for community immunization clinics](#) for the most up-to-date guidance regarding infection prevention and control measures required for the set-up and safe operation of immunization clinics in community settings (e.g., community pharmacies, public health units, schools, community centres, arenas).

**Please remove entire document:** dated October 20, 2022

**Part 2 – Immunization of Special Populations**

**Specific Immunocompromising Conditions**

**Candidate for or Recipient of Solid Organ or Islet Cell Transplant**

- Content related to the contraindication for live vaccines following solid organ or islet cell transplant has been revised to indicate that live vaccines are *generally* contraindicated after transplantation. Per the [Canadian Immunization Guide](#), the International Pediatric Transplant Association, and the Multi-Organ Transplant Clinic at BC Children's Hospital, univalent varicella vaccine has been given to select pediatric organ transplant recipients without recent graft rejection and receiving baseline immune suppression. As such, content has been added to indicate that univalent varicella vaccine may be given to select pediatric organ transplant recipients **upon the recommendation of a medical specialist from the Multi-Organ Transplant Clinic at BC Children's Hospital** per the [Referral Form for Varicella Vaccination](#).

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For more information, go to the [Optimizing Varicella Immunization in Children and Youth with Solid Organ Transplants to Prevent Disease and Improve Long-Term Health](#).

- Footnote A on page 1 has been added to indicate that additional vaccines may be recommended/required by BC Transplant that are not publicly funded. A link to the BC Transplant [Pre-Transplant Vaccination Provincial Guidelines](#) has been added for more information.
- COVID-19 vaccine has been added to the associated schedules and worksheets.
- Content on zoster vaccine has been revised to:
  - Remove reference to ZOSTAVAX® II as this product has been discontinued in Canada by the manufacturer
  - Indicate that SHINGRIX® may be considered for immunocompromised individuals 18 years of age and older, per updates to the product monograph
  - Indicate that First Nations Health Benefits provides coverage for SHINGRIX® for First Nations Elders who are 60 years and older
- The third dose of rotavirus vaccine has been removed from Table 1 and Table 2 as ROTARIX® is the product currently supplied in BC and is a 2-dose series. Footnote A continues to indicate that if any dose in the series is RotaTeq® or the product is unknown, a total of 3 doses of vaccine should be administered.
- Hepatitis B has been removed from the Grade 6 row in Table 2.
- A footnote has been added to page 5 regarding spacing consideration between pneumococcal conjugate vaccine and pneumococcal polysaccharide vaccine.

**Please remove page numbers:** 1-5 dated January 2017-October 2019

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

## Referral Forms

### Referral Form for Varicella Vaccination

- An additional category has been added to the referral form: “Pediatric Solid Organ Transplant Recipient: Medical specialist recommendation from the Multi-Organ Transplant Clinic at BC Children’s Hospital”.
- Footnote A has been updated to indicate that HSCT recipients are considered susceptible to varicella regardless of disease or immunization history prior to the transplant.

**Please remove page numbers:** 1-2 dated June 2018

**Please add new page numbers:** 1-2 dated November 2023

## **Part 4 – Biological Products**

### **Varicella vaccines**

#### **Varilrix® and Varivax® III**

- Grade 6 catch-up has been removed from INDICATIONS and DOSES AND SCHEDULE as 2<sup>nd</sup> dose varicella (provided as MMRV) has been routinely provided at 4-6 years of age since 2013 and the majority of children would have received it prior to grade 6.
- CONTRAINDICATIONS section has been updated to include consideration for varicella vaccine for pediatric organ transplant recipients upon the recommendation of a medical specialist from the Multi-Organ Transplant Clinic at BC Children’s Hospital.
- Gender specific language has been revised for inclusivity.

**Please remove page numbers:** 1-4 dated October 2020  
**Please add new page numbers:** 1-4 dated November 2023

### **Zoster vaccine**

#### **ZOSTAVAX® II**

This product page has been removed from the BC Immunization Manual as ZOSTAVAX® II has been discontinued in Canada by the manufacturer. This is not related to product quality or safety. ZOSTAVAX® II will continue to be commercially available until remaining inventory has been depleted or the product has expired, whichever comes first.

**Please remove page numbers:** 1-2 dated October 2018

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

### **Supporting Documents**

#### **History of Immunization in BC**

New pages have been created for the COVID-19 and mpox vaccines. The influenza vaccine content has been updated for the 2022/23 season. Cisgender males born in 2005 have been added under HPV vaccine. A table of contents has also been added.

**Please remove entire section:** dated August 2020-June 2022  
**Please add new section:** dated November 2023

The [Guidance on the Management of Inadvertent COVID-19 Vaccine Errors](#), [Strategies to Prevent COVID-19 and Influenza Vaccine Errors](#) and [COVID-19 mRNA and Influenza Vaccine Comparison Tables](#) have been updated on the [COVID-19 vaccination toolkit for health professionals](#) page. A link to the [Infection prevention and control guidance for community immunization clinics](#) has been added to the [Immunization Manual](#) webpage under "Related Content."

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,



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