



BC Centre for Disease Control
Provincial Health Services Authority

Immunization Programs and Vaccine Preventable Diseases Service
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Date: September 26, 2023

Administrative Circular: 2023:26

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 1: *Haemophilus influenzae* type b and Chapter 2: Immunization, Part 4 – Biological Products

Chapter 1: Communicable Disease Control

Haemophilus influenzae type b

Minor updates have been made to section 6.1.1 to clarify when immunoprophylaxis can be considered following the occurrence of an invasive *Haemophilus influenzae* type b case in an adult associated with the homeless/underhoused population.

Please remove page number: 4 dated January 2023
Please add new page number: 4 dated September 2023

Part 4 – Biological Products

COVID-19 Vaccines

COVID-19 Vaccine Eligibility

- The COVID-19 vaccine eligibility table has been revised based on the new COVID-19 XBB.1.5 vaccine schedule.
 - The recommended dosing regimen for the new COVID-19 XBB.1.5 vaccine is 2 doses for children aged 6 months to 4 years who were not previously vaccinated and one dose for children who have been previously vaccinated. Individuals 5 years of age and older are recommended one dose regardless of previous vaccination status at an interval of at least 6 months following last dose.
 - For those 6 months of age and older who are moderately to severely immunosuppressed, a total of at least 3 doses of COVID-19 vaccine is recommended with at least 1 dose being the XBB.1.5 formulation.

Page 1 of 5

- All original monovalent and bivalent COVID-19 vaccines have been removed from the eligibility table and the following content has been added to this page:
 - “While the new COVID-19 XBB.1.5 vaccine is the recommended product for Fall 2023, in the event a client requests a COVID-19 vaccine prior to the COVID-19 XBB.1.5 formulation being available within a provider’s inventory, the original monovalent or bivalent COVID-19 vaccine can be provided per the respective product page. The client should be counselled that receipt of a dose of an original monovalent or bivalent COVID-19 vaccine is expected to be less effective against the current circulating strains of COVID-19 compared to the XBB.1.5 formulation and will delay their receipt of the XBB.1.5 formulation due to interval recommendations.”

Please remove page numbers: 1-3 dated August 2023
Please add new page numbers: 1-3 dated September 2023

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

- A new product page has been developed for the Moderna Spikevax® XBB.1.5 vaccine.
- This vaccine is approved for use in those 6 months of age and older.
- This product has a royal blue vial cap and a coral blue label border.

Please add new page numbers: 1-4 dated September 2023

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

This product page has been removed from the BC Immunization Manual as all lots of this formulation have expired.

Please remove page numbers: 1-5 dated July 2023

COVID-19 mRNA Vaccine COMIRNATY® (Pfizer-BioNTech) 6 months to 4 Years of Age

This product page has been removed from the BC Immunization Manual as all lots of this formulation have expired.

Please remove page numbers: 1-5 dated January 2023

Note: The COVID-19 mRNA product pages below will be removed following the start of the Fall 2023 COVID-19 immunization program for which the COVID-19 XBB.1.5 vaccine is recommended for all ages. Minor edits have been made to these pages in the interim.

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

BOOSTER DOSE section updated to indicate “No further doses are recommended following COVID-19 vaccination with the XBB.1.5 formulation at this time.”

Please remove page numbers: 1-5 dated July 2023
Please add new page numbers: 1-5 dated September 2023

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

BOOSTER DOSE section updated to indicate “No further doses are recommended following COVID-19 vaccination with the XBB.1.5 formulation at this time.”

Please remove page numbers: 1-5 dated July 2023
Please add new page numbers: 1-5 dated September 2023

COVID-19 Vaccine SPIKEVAX™ (Moderna) 6 months – 5 Years of Age

BOOSTER DOSE section updated to indicate “No further doses are recommended following COVID-19 vaccination with the XBB.1.5 formulation at this time.”

Please remove page numbers: 1-4 dated July 2023
Please add new page numbers: 1-4 dated September 2023

COVID-19 Vaccine SPIKEVAX Bivalent™ (Moderna)

BOOSTER DOSE section updated to indicate “No further doses are recommended following COVID-19 vaccination with the XBB.1.5 formulation at this time.”

Please remove page numbers: 1-4 dated June 2023
Please add new page numbers: 1-4 dated September 2023

COVID-19 Vaccine NUVAXOVID™ (Novavax)

Footnote E on page 1 and the BOOSTER DOSE section updated to reflect current recommendations for an additional dose of XBB.1.5 formulation.

Please remove page numbers: 1-3 dated August 2023
Please add new page numbers: 1-3 dated September 2023

Hib Vaccines

Haemophilus b Conjugate Vaccine, Act-HIB®

The following revisions have been made:

- Hiberix® has been removed from the product page as this product is no longer available.
- The following indication has been updated for clarity, “Individuals who are at high risk in geographies experiencing clonal activity per [Communicable Disease Control Manual, Chapter 1: Haemophilus influenzae type b](#) (refer to 6.1.1 Immunoprophylaxis of Adults in Delineated Communities Following Occurrence of a Cluster or Case), as determined by the regional MHO in consultation with BCCDC.”

Please remove page numbers: 1 & 2 dated November 2022
Please add new page numbers: 1 & 2 dated September 2023

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

Additional Resources

The [COVID-19 Vaccine Screening Checklist](#) and the [World Health Organization \(WHO\) Emergency Use Authorization \(EUA\) Qualified COVID-19 Vaccines](#) resource have also been updated.

The COVID-19 Vaccination Aftercare Sheet has been removed. The newly developed age-based [Immunization aftercare sheets](#) can be accessed through ImmunizeBC.

The COVID-19 HealthLinkBC Files and the COVID-19 online education and supporting resources will be updated shortly to reflect the new COVID-19 XBB.1.5 mRNA vaccine recommendations.

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
Immunization Programs and Vaccine Preventable Diseases Service
BC Centre for Disease Control

pc:

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BC Ministry of Health,
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