



BC Centre for Disease Control  
Provincial Health Services Authority

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**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](mailto: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](mailto:stephanie.meier@bccdc.ca)).

Sincerely,



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