## COVID-19 Vaccine – mRNA Pfizer-BioNTech Comirnaty XBB.1.5 – Ultra Frozen Vaccine Biological Page

### Biological Product Information

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Manufacturer:</th>
<th>Pfizer-BioNTech</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Biological Classification:</td>
<td>(mRNA) Omicron XBB.1.5 vaccine</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Indications for Provincially Funded Vaccine: | • One dose for all immunocompetent individuals 5 years of age and older regardless of the product type and number of doses of COVID-19 vaccines received in the past.  
• Completion of a 3-dose series for individuals 5 years of age and older who are moderately to severely immunocompromised.  
• One dose for moderately to severely immunocompromised individuals 5 years of age and older who have completed a 3-dose non-XBB.1.5. series. |
| Preferred Use: |  
| Dose: | 0.3 mL (10 mcg) | 0.3 mL (30 mcg) |
| Route: | IM in the vastus lateralis or deltoid muscle |

### Schedule for healthy immunocompetent individuals

**Individuals 5 years of age and older:**
- 1 dose, at least three months from previous COVID-19 vaccine dose, regardless of the number of doses received in the past.

### Schedule for individuals with certain moderate to severe immunocompromising conditions

**Previously received fewer than 3 doses of non-XBB.1.5 COVID-19 vaccine:**
- Moderately to severely immunocompromised individuals should follow the schedule below and receive the appropriate number of Pfizer-BioNTech Comirnaty XBB.1.5 doses to complete a 3-dose series. Regardless of which COVID-19 vaccine product(s) were administered, the previous dose(s) should be counted, and the series does not need to be restarted.
  - Dose 1: day 0
  - Dose 2: at least 28 days after dose 1
  - Dose 3: 8 weeks after dose 2
Note:

- Individuals who are moderately to severely immunocompromised may benefit from a series with Moderna Spikevax XBB.1.5 compared to Pfizer-BioNTech Comirnaty XBB.1.5.
  - Based on data from studies of original mRNA COVID-19 vaccines, Moderna Spikevax original (100 mcg) induces somewhat higher antibody levels compared to Pfizer-BioNTech Comirnaty original (30 mcg) and protection (against infection and severe disease) may be more durable. It is reasonable to expect a similar result from Moderna Spikevax XBB.1.5.

- For individuals 12 to 29 years of age who are completing a three-dose series, Pfizer-BioNTech Comirnaty vaccine is preferred over Moderna Spikevax vaccine.
  - This aligns with NACI’s previous recommendations based on the finding of a lower risk of myocarditis and/or pericarditis observed after dose 1 and dose 2 of a primary series with Pfizer-BioNTech Comirnaty original (30 mcg) compared to Moderna Spikevax original (100 mcg).
  - Post-market safety surveillance data on previous formulations of mRNA COVID-19 vaccine indicate that the risk of myocarditis following a booster dose is lower compared to that following the second dose in the primary series, and current data do not show a product-specific difference in the risks of myocarditis and/or pericarditis after a booster dose of an mRNA COVID-19 vaccine.
  - However, Moderna Spikevax XBB.1.5 can be provided if preferred by an individual or their specialist. See the precautions section for further information on myocarditis/pericarditis.

- The interval between dose 2 and dose 3 is recommended to be 8 weeks because emerging evidence from the general population indicates that a longer interval will likely result in a better immune response and duration of protection.
  - However, there is heterogeneity of risk from COVID-19 among those who are moderately to severely immunocompromised. In addition, the likelihood of a reduced response to vaccines will vary depending on the immunocompromising condition. Thus, a shortened interval no less than 28 days between dose 2 and 3 may be considered for those with increased risk of exposure and greater severity of immunodeficiency based on their clinician’s recommendation.

Previously received 3 or more doses of non-XBB.1.5 COVID-19 vaccine:

- 1 dose, at least 3 months from previous dose.

Note:

- It is recommended that individuals with certain immunocompromising conditions be immunized with a series of three doses of an mRNA COVID-19 vaccine. This is to provide stronger protection for those who may have a suboptimal immune response to vaccines.
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• Specific immunocompromising conditions that make an individual eligible for a three dose COVID-19 vaccine series:
  ○ Solid organ transplant recipients – pre-transplant and post-transplant
  ○ Hematopoietic stem cell transplants recipients – pre-transplant and post-transplant while in immunosuppressed state (post-HSCT individuals are generally considered to be immunocompetent after 3 years as long as they are not on immunosuppressive drugs)
  ○ Individuals with malignant hematologic disorders and non-hematologic malignant solid tumors prior to receiving or while receiving active treatment which includes chemotherapy, targeted therapies, and immunotherapy or having received previous COVID-19 vaccines while on active treatment (does not include individuals receiving solely hormonal therapy, radiation therapy or a surgical intervention).
  ○ Individuals with chronic kidney disease on peritoneal dialysis or hemodialysis.
  ○ Individuals receiving chimeric antigen receptor (CAR) T-cell therapy.
  ○ Individuals on:
    ▪ long term high-dose systemic steroid treatment (prednisone equivalent of ≥ 2 mg/kg/day or 20 mg/day if weight > 10 kg, for ≥ 14 days), or
    ▪ alkylating agents, or
    ▪ Individuals on anti-B-cell therapies – including anti-CD19, anti-CD20, anti-CD22 and anti-CD52 monoclonal antibodies (such as rituximab, ocrelizumab, and ofatumumab), or
    ▪ antimetabolites (e.g., methotrexate, azathioprine, mycophenolate), or
    ▪ tumor-necrosis factor (TNF) inhibitors (e.g., adalimumab, certolizumab, etanercept, golimumab, infliximab), or
    ▪ other agents that are significantly immunosuppressive at clinicians’ discretion
  ○ HIV-infected individuals without viral suppression or those with acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS).

• Individuals with moderate to severe primary immunodeficiency (e.g., DiGeorge syndrome, Wiskott-Aldrich syndrome). Documentation of immunocompromising conditions is not required. Individuals who identify themselves as meeting at least one of the criteria above should be offered a 3-dose series.

• Immunization of immunocompromised individuals should occur at a time when the individual is most likely to mount an immune response. Physician consultation is recommended regarding the timing of immunization (initiation and interval) based on the individual’s treatment and unique circumstances.

• Hematopoietic stem cell transplant (HSCT) recipients who received COVID-19 vaccine pre-transplant are eligible to restart their COVID-19 vaccine series
beginning at least 3 months post-transplant. Consultation with their HSCT physician is not necessary if the initial clearance letter has been received to proceed with inactivated vaccines.

- CAR T-cell therapy recipients without a prior history of HSCT who received COVID-19 vaccine pre-CAR T-cell therapy are eligible to restart their COVID-19 vaccine series, beginning at least 3 months post-CAR T-cell therapy. Consultation with their physician is not necessary as long as a clearance letter has been received to proceed with inactivated vaccines.

- For HSCT recipients who had their post-HSCT vaccine series interrupted by CAR T-cell therapy, see the following HSCT recommendations:
  - [Principles of Immunization in Hematopoietic Stem Cell Transplant and Solid Organ Transplant Recipients](#)
  - [Child HSCT](#)
  - [Adult HSCT](#)

### Interval between previous COVID-19 infection and COVID-19 immunization

For individuals with a history of COVID-19 infection the following guidance is provided on suggested intervals between infection and COVID-19 immunization.

**Note:**

- These suggested intervals are based on immunological principles and expert opinion, and may change as evidence on COVID-19, variants of concern (VOCs), and COVID-19 vaccines emerge. When considering whether to administer vaccine doses following the suggested intervals outlined in this table, biological and social risk factors for exposure (e.g., local epidemiology, circulation of VOCs, living settings) and risk of severe disease should also be considered. These intervals are a guide and clinical discretion is advised. Individuals can be immunized at less than the recommended intervals from infection upon request.

- For individuals who have not had any previous doses, they may receive their first dose after acute symptoms of COVID-19 have resolved and they are no longer infectious, or they may follow these suggested intervals (with the exception of those with MIS-C who should wait at least 90 days).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Infection prior to initiation or completion of a COVID-19 immunization series</th>
<th>Individuals <strong>without</strong> certain immunocompromising conditions AND no history of multisystem inflammatory syndrome in children (MIS-C).</th>
<th>8 weeks after a positive test.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Individuals <strong>with</strong> certain immunocompromising conditions (as listed above) AND no history of MIS-C.</td>
<td>4 to 8 weeks after a positive test.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>History of MIS-C (regardless of)</td>
<td>Receive the vaccine when clinical recovery has been achieved or at least 90 days</td>
<td></td>
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</table>
### Contraindications/Precautions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>5-11 years</th>
<th>12 years and older</th>
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</table>

**Contraindications:**
- Known severe hypersensitivity to any component of the vaccine.
- Two non-medicinal ingredients in the vaccine that have been associated with allergic reactions in other products:
  - Polyethylene glycol (PEG). The potential allergen may be found in bowel preparation products for colonoscopy, laxatives, cough syrup, cosmetics, contact lens care solutions, skin products and some food and drinks.
  - Tromethamine (trometamol or Tris) – component found in contrast media, oral and parenteral medications.
- Anaphylaxis to a previous dose of COVID-19 mRNA vaccine may not be an absolute contraindication. See [COVID-19 Immunization for Individuals with Allergies and Other Health Conditions](#) for recommendations.

**Precautions:**
- The safety and effectiveness of Pfizer-BioNTech Omicron XBB.1.5 for individuals 6 months of age and older are inferred from studies which evaluated the primary series and booster vaccination with Pfizer-BioNTech and supported by studies which evaluated a booster dose of Pfizer-BioNTech Original & Omicron BA.4/BA.5 in individuals 6 months of age and older (in Alberta, Pfizer XBB.1.5 vaccine is only being used for individuals 5 years of age and older).
- There are no known serious warnings or precautions associated with this product.
- Very rare cases of myocarditis and/or pericarditis following immunization with Pfizer-BioNTech vaccines have been reported during post-authorization use.
- Individuals who have had a serious allergic reaction to another vaccine, drug or food should talk to their health care provider before receiving the vaccine.
- Individuals receiving anticoagulant therapy or those with a bleeding disorder that would contraindicate intramuscular injection should not be given the vaccine unless the potential benefit clearly outweighs the risk of administration.
- Administration should be postponed in individuals suffering from acute severe febrile illness.

**Myocarditis/Pericarditis**
- Very rare cases of myocarditis and/or pericarditis following immunization with Pfizer-BioNTech vaccines have been reported during post-authorization use. See Schedule...
for individuals with certain moderate to severe immunocompromising conditions above.

- Anyone receiving an mRNA COVID-19 vaccine should be informed of the risk of myocarditis and pericarditis and advised to seek medical attention if they develop related symptoms including shortness of breath, chest pain, or the feeling of a rapid or abnormal heart rhythm.

- Healthcare professionals are advised to consider the possibility of myocarditis and/or pericarditis in their differential diagnosis if individuals present with chest pain, shortness of breath, palpitations or other signs and symptoms of myocarditis and/or pericarditis following immunization with an mRNA COVID-19 vaccine.

- Generally, deferral of COVID-19 immunization is not required for those with a prior history of myocarditis or pericarditis that is unrelated to COVID-19 mRNA vaccines.
  
  - If these individuals have questions or concerns about their prior history of myocarditis or pericarditis and immunization, it is recommended that individuals consult with their clinician. However, consultation with a clinician is not required to receive COVID-19 vaccines.

- Individuals with a history compatible with pericarditis within 6 weeks of receiving a dose of an mRNA COVID-19 vaccine, who either had no cardiac workup or who had normal cardiac investigations, can be re-immunized when they are symptom free and at least 90 days have passed since previous immunization.

- In most circumstances, further doses of mRNA COVID-19 vaccines should be deferred among people who experienced myocarditis (with or without pericarditis) within 6 weeks of receiving a previous dose of an mRNA COVID-19 vaccine.
  
  - However, further doses may be offered if individuals with confirmed myocarditis or pericarditis with abnormal cardiac investigation choose to receive another dose of vaccine after discussing the risks and benefits with their clinician.
  
  - Informed consent should discuss the unknown risk of recurrence of myocarditis and/or pericarditis following additional doses of COVID-19 vaccine in individuals with a history of confirmed myocarditis and/or pericarditis after a previous dose of mRNA COVID-19 vaccine.

### Possible Reactions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Common:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pain at the injection site</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fatigue</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Headache</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Myalgia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arthralgia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chills</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fever</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diarrhea</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Swelling/Induration at injection site</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Erythema at injection site</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nausea/vomiting</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>5-11 years</th>
<th>12 years and older</th>
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#### Uncommon:
- Lymphadenopathy
- Malaise
- Asthenia
- Decreased appetite
- Hyperhidrosis
- Lethargy
- Night sweats
- Hypoesthesia (decreased sense of touch or sensation)
- Parasthesia (tingling, itching or pricking sensation)
- Dizziness

#### Rare:
- Allergic reaction
- Anaphylaxis
- Erythema multiforme
- Myocarditis/Pericarditis
- Facial paralysis/Bell’s palsy

Refer to the product monograph for more detailed information.

### Pregnancy

- COVID-19 vaccine should be offered to pregnant individuals regardless of trimester of pregnancy. An mRNA vaccine is preferred due to reassuring published data on the safety of these vaccines in pregnancy.
- The safety and efficacy of Pfizer-BioNTech XBB.1.5 in pregnant women has not yet been established.
- However, data available on the original mRNA vaccines administered in pregnancy did not detect safety signals from post-marketing surveillance. COVID-19 mRNA vaccines can be offered to pregnant individuals as they are more at risk for severe illness from COVID-19 compared with non-pregnant individuals.
  - Evidence to date shows that COVID-19 immunization during pregnancy is safe and does not increase risk for miscarriage, stillbirth, low birth weight, preterm birth, NICU admission, or other adverse pregnancy/birth outcomes.
  - It is recommended that individuals consult their primary health care provider or obstetrician for any vaccine related questions or concerns.
  - However, consultation with a primary health care provider or obstetrician is not required to receive COVID-19 vaccine.

**Additional resources:**

[Society of Obstetricians and Gynecologists of Canada Statement on COVID-19 Immunization in Pregnancy](#)

### Lactation

- It is unknown whether this vaccine is excreted in human milk. A risk to the newborns/infants cannot be excluded.
- Recent reports have shown that breastfeeding people who have received mRNA COVID-19 vaccines have antibodies in their breastmilk, which could help protect
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Composition</th>
<th>Raxtozinameran (mRNA) encodes for the viral spike (S) protein of SARS-CoV-2 Omicron XBB.1.5 strain</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Non-medicinal ingredients:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• ALC-0315 = ((4-hydroxybutyl) azanediy)bis(hexane-6,1-diyl)bis(2-hexyldecanoate)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• ALC-0159 = 2-[(polyethylene glycol)-2000]-N,N-ditetradecylacetamide</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• cholesterol</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• DSPC = 1,2-distearoyl-sn-glycero-3-phosphocholine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• sucrose</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• tromethamine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• tromethamine hydrochloride</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• water for injection</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Does not contain any preservatives, antibiotics, adjuvants or human or animal derived materials.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Blood/Blood Products</th>
<th>Does not contain blood/blood products.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bovine/Porcine</td>
<td>Does not contain bovine/porcine products.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Products</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Latex</td>
<td>Does not contain latex.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Administration with Other Products</th>
<th>COVID-19 vaccines may be co-administered with, or at any time before or after other vaccines (including, live, inactivated, adjuvanted, or unadjuvanted vaccines), tuberculin skin tests or IGRA (QFT) tests to individuals 6 months of age and older. (In Alberta, Pfizer XBB.1.5 vaccine is only being used for individuals 5 years of age and older).</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• There is a theoretical risk that COVID-19 vaccines may temporarily affect cell-mediated immunity, resulting in false-negative tuberculin skin testing or IGRA (QFT) test results.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• In the absence of data and acknowledging the importance of both timely tuberculosis testing and immunization, immunization with COVID-19 vaccines can take place at any time before, after or at the same visit as the TST or IGRA test.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• However, repeat tuberculin skin testing or IGRA (at least 4 weeks post COVID-19 immunization) of individuals with negative TST or IGRA results for whom there is high suspicion of latent tuberculosis may be considered to avoid missing persons with TB infection.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Deferral of COVID-19 immunization is not recommended for individuals who have received anti-SARS-CoV-2 monoclonal antibodies or convalescent plasma provided</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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### 5-11 years
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- for treatment or prophylaxis of COVID-19 just because they received these pharmacological interventions. This applies to people who received these before receiving any COVID-19 vaccine dose or between doses.
  - A study among nursing home residents and staff demonstrated that recipients of a SARS-CoV-2 monoclonal antibody (bamlanivimab), mounted a robust immune response to mRNA immunization, regardless of age, risk category or vaccine type.
  - Although antibody response was numerically lower in people who received monoclonal antibodies, they were still considered to be high and the clinical significance of the reduction is unknown.
  - There was no correlation between interval to COVID-19 immunization and neutralizing titres in recent monoclonal antibody recipients.
  - Intervals between previous COVID-19 infection and COVID-19 immunization outlined in this document would still apply to individuals who got the monoclonal antibodies or convalescent plasma for their infection.

- Individuals who are to receive Evusheld (tixagevimab and cilgavimab) as pre-exposure prophylaxis should wait at least 2 weeks following COVID-19 immunization to minimize interference.

**Note:**
- Timing of administration and potential interference between COVID-19 vaccine and monoclonal products not used for treatment or prophylaxis of COVID-19 infection are currently unknown and the primary health care provider or medical specialist should be consulted on a case-by-case basis.
- mRNA COVID-19 vaccines may be given at any time before or after an immunoglobulin preparation (including RhIg) or blood product has been administered. There is no recommended minimum interval between these products and COVID-19 vaccine.

### Appearance
- Thawed suspension may contain white to off-white amorphous particles.

### Storage
- Store in ultra freezer between -90°C to -60°C for up to 18 months from the date of manufacture.
- Protect from light until thawed.
- Do not refreeze after thawing.
- Thawed, unpunctured:
  - Thawed, unpunctured vials can be stored at +2°C to +8°C for up to 10 weeks.
  - Thawed, unpunctured vials can be stored at +8°C to +25°C for up to 12 hours.
- Thawed, punctured vials:
  - Thawed, punctured vials (first dose is withdrawn) can be stored at +2°C to +25°C for 12 hours.
  - Discard after 12 hours.

### Packaging
- 6 doses per vial
- 10 vials per carton

### Preparation/
**Multidose vials are supplied as a frozen dispersion, does not contain preservative. Thaw vaccine before use:**
Reconstitution

- Vaccine can be thawed in two ways:
  - From the freezer to room temperature (between +15˚C to +25˚C), thaw for 30 minutes from frozen state.
  - From the freezer to a vaccine fridge (+2˚C to +8˚C), thaw for 6 hours from the frozen state.
- Must not be reconstituted, mixed with other medicinal product, or diluted.
- No dilution is required.
- Before use, mix the thawed vaccine by inverting the vial gently 10 times.
- Do not shake vial.

Vaccine Code: COVPBmRNAXBB
Antigen Code: COVID-19
Licensed for: Single dose for individuals 6 months of age and older. In Alberta, Pfizer XBB.1.5 vaccine is only being used for individuals 5 years of age and older.

Off-license use:
- An interval of less than 6 months from previous dose for individuals 5 to 11 years of age who previously completed a non-XBB.1.5 series.
- Three-dose series for individuals who are moderately to severely immunocompromised.

Program Notes:
- September 28, 2023 – Licensed for use in Canada.
- October 16, 2023 – Implemented in Alberta.

Related Resources:
- Alberta Health Services Website (2023). COVID-19 mRNA Vaccine Information
- COVID-19 mRNA Vaccine Information Sheet (105240)

References:
5. Comirnaty®Omicron XBB.1.5 COVID-19 mRNA vaccine, Monovalent (Omicron XBB.1.5). Suspension for Intramuscular Injection: Product Monograph