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**SUBJECT:** Market Withdrawal of COVID-19 XBB Vaccines  
**Date:** August 28, 2024  
**Pages:** 1  
**To:** Physicians, Hospitals, Long-Term Care Homes, Retirement Homes  
**From:** Dr. Matthew Tenenbaum, Associate Medical Officer of Health

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- **XBB COVID-19 vaccines should not be administered beginning September 1, 2024.** They may be administered up to and including August 31.
- **After September 1, XBB vaccine doses should be quarantined until they can be returned to WDGPH.**
- **Updated COVID-19 vaccines, targeting KP.2, will be available this fall.**

New COVID-19 vaccines, targeting the KP.2 Omicron variant, will be available for the 2024/25 fall/winter COVID-19 immunization program. Vaccine products from Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna are currently awaiting Health Canada approval.

As new products are approved, the current vaccines (targeting the XBB strain) will be withdrawn from the Canadian market. As a result, the Ministry of Health advises that these vaccines should not be administered beginning September 1, 2024. Please refer to the attached memo for additional information.

The withdrawal of the XBB vaccines from the Canadian market is not related to any concerns about their safety or effectiveness.

After September 1, please quarantine any remaining XBB vaccine by taking the following steps:

- Label all unused vials/doses with **DO NOT USE**
- Place all unused vials/doses in a bag, labelled **DO NOT USE**
- Store the bag in your vaccine fridge at 2-8°C
- Await further instructions from WDGPH regarding the return of unused vials/doses

Additional information about the timeline for ordering the updated (KP.2) COVID-19 vaccines will be shared shortly.

**For more information, please contact:**

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