

The Immunizer

A quarterly newsletter for community vaccine providers (CVP) in the Interior Health Region

March 14, 2022

Coyotes & Dogs & Bats. Oh My!

Emergency Departments - Wondering who to refer/consult with when patients present with an animal bite/wound? Refer to Public Health Environmental Health Officer (EHO) or Medical Health Officer (MHO) for Rabies Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (RPEP) risk assessment.

- **Mon-Fri, 8:30 am to 4:30 pm** - Contact EPH On-Duty EHO for a risk assessment. During business hours call 1-855-851-4184, ask to be connected to the EPH On-Duty EHO or [Find a Health Protection Office](#).
- **Evenings & Weekends** - Contact MHO on call for a risk assessment. For animal contacts after business hours call **1-866-457-5648** ask for Duty MHO on call.
ONLY the MHO can authorize release of RPEP!



Adverse Event Reporting

Reporting an [Adverse Event Following Immunization](#) (AEFI) is a health professional responsibility as per the Public Health Act. Figuring out whether the AEFI meets reporting criteria, which form to use to report it and then where to send it to can be confusing!

AEFI Reporting Criteria: [Part 5 of the BC Immunization Manual](#) provides the criteria to help you figure out not only what reactions are reportable, but also provides details related to how they are reported.

- **COVID-19:** [Summary of AEFI Reporting Criteria for COVID-19 Vaccination](#)

How to Report:

- [Adverse Event Following Immunization case report form](#)
- **COVID-19 (short form)**- [Report of Adverse Event Following Immunization with COVID-19 Vaccine](#)

Complete the form with as much detail as possible! Include medical reports.

Where to Send the Report: Fax to the local [public health centre](#)

- **COVID-19 AEFIs only:** Fax to 250-549-6310

“Give it Your Best Shot”

Uptake of pregnancy and infant vaccines is below the nationally recommended level, which puts communities at risk. As a healthcare provider, you can help turn these numbers around. BC Children’s Hospital Research Institute has developed a 5-minute [video](#) about discussing vaccines with new parents.





Stay up to Date

Sign up for email updates from BCCDC when the following immunization resources are revised (See bottom right hand section of each page):

- [Admin Circulars – Communicable Disease Manual](#) (includes Immunization Manual)
- [New Today – COVID-19 for health care providers](#)
- [Communicable Diseases Reports](#) (See Vaccine Preventable)

Immunization Communication Tool – 2021 Edition

The [Immunization Communication Tool \(ICT\)](#) was developed to support health care providers with the information and tools needed to communicate effectively about vaccines and address vaccine hesitancy.

If you would like a hard copy, you can request one from your local public health centre to be included with your vaccine order.

The [COVID-19 ICT addendum for providers](#) is only available online.



Essential Immunization Resources

[Interior Health Immunization & Vaccines](#)

[BCCDC Immunization Manual](#)

[BCCDC Immunization Clinical Resources page](#)

[BCCDC Vaccine Management](#)

[BCCDC Adverse Events Following Immunization](#)

[ImmunizeBC](#)

[HealthLinkBC Files](#)

[Canadian Immunization Guide](#)

[Immunize Canada](#)

Questions?



If you have questions, we are happy to help!

- Clinical Immunization Questions: ImmunizationProgram@interiorhealth.ca
- Biological Vaccine Product Questions: Vaccines@interiorhealth.ca

Let us know if you have any suggestions for upcoming newsletter content.

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