

## DO YOUR PART IN REPORTING ADVERSE EVENTS!



**Advise patients** to inform you if they experience a concerning adverse event after vaccination.



**Report** to [public health](#) any reportable event using BC's Adverse Events Following Immunization ([AEFI](#)) [Case Report Form](#).



**Follow up with your patient** to advise about whether they can proceed with future immunizations.



**Contact your local public health unit** if you have any questions about AEFI reporting.

## Questions & Answers

### ? What is an AEFI?

An adverse event following immunization (AEFI) is any untoward medical occurrence following the administration of a vaccine which may or may not be caused by the vaccine.

### ? What type of AEFIs should be reported?

Any event which may be related to receipt of a vaccine, as outlined in [Part 5 – Adverse Events Following Immunization](#) of the BC Immunization Manual, must be reported even if you are unsure the vaccine caused the event.

### ? What types of AEFIs do not need to be reported?

Local injection site reactions and non-specific systemic reactions (e.g., headache, myalgia) should not be reported unless these are more frequent or severe than expected. Also events that are clearly attributed to other causes should not be reported.

### ? Why is it important to report AEFIs?

AEFI reporting provides vital information needed to monitor vaccine safety. This type of surveillance can detect rare side effects and identify safety signals not detectable through clinical trials.

### ? What happens after AEFIs are reported?

A Medical Health Officer or designate will investigate further and provide your patient with a recommendation as to whether they can proceed with future immunizations. Local AEFI reports are sent to the BC Centre for Disease Control (provincial), then to the Public Health Agency of Canada's Canadian Adverse Events Following Immunization Surveillance System (CAEFISS) (national). Canada also participates in vaccine safety monitoring at the World Health Organization (international). Vaccine safety matters on a provincial, national and international level!

### ? Who should report AEFIs?

Health professionals who are aware of an adverse event following immunization must report the event to the local public health unit using BC's [AEFI Case Report Form](#).

### ? What do I tell my patients about AEFIs?

Patients should be made aware of potential vaccine side effects and how to manage common reactions. This information is outlined in the [HealthLinkBC File](#) for that vaccine. If reported events do not meet reporting criteria, they may still be a cause for concern for your patient and may impede their confidence in receiving future immunizations. Address these concerns and ensure your patient has received a recommendation on whether and how to proceed with future immunizations. Contraindications to future vaccine receipt are rarely required but should be clearly stated and documented in their record.

REPORTING ADVERSE EVENTS SOLIDIFIES YOUR COMMITMENT TO ENSURING VACCINE SAFETY.