

IMMSFORMATION!

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BC Centre for Disease Control
An agency of the Provincial Health Services Authority



NEW AND UPCOMING

Vaccine Status Reporting Regulation

BC's new Vaccination Status Reporting Regulation (the Regulation) came into force on July 1, 2019. The Regulation supports a priority initiative of the Ministry of Health and regional health authorities to document the vaccination status and encourage the immunization of school-age children from K-12 in public and independent schools as well as all children who are home schooled. Complete information on students' immunization status will further improve the ability of public health to respond during an outbreak by enabling rapid identification of under-immunized or un-immunized students.

In September 2019, public health units will begin reviewing immunization records.

Parents/guardians or students may be contacted for any missing or incomplete information. By the end of September, in all regions

except Vancouver Coastal, parents will be able to go online at www.immunizebc.ca to check whether their child's immunization record is missing or incomplete using the Vaccination Status Indicator. In Vancouver Coastal Health, parents may be directly contacted for information if their child's record is missing or incomplete.

What role will immunizers play in implementing the regulation?

Complete documentation of vaccination history will ensure the success of this initiative. Physicians and pharmacists may see an increase in parents/guardians requesting copies of their children's immunization records. You can support the Regulation by providing immunization records to parents/guardians and school-aged children when requested, and ensuring that vaccines administered by you are properly documented in your electronic information system and that a copy is provided to the recipient to assist in their record-keeping.

As a reminder, every health encounter is an opportunity to review and update immunization status.

FYI

Rabies

There is heightened concern about rabies due to the recent death of a Vancouver Island resident following an exposure to a bat. In BC, bats are the only reservoir of rabies. Rabies in humans is extremely rare with 2 cases in BC since 1924. For more information on rabies, see the [Communicable Disease Control Manual, Chapter 1: Rabies](#).

Exposure to bats and the determination for post-exposure prophylaxis should be discussed with local public health. To find a local health unit go to the [Health Unit Finder](#) on ImmunizeBC.

GUIDELINES

Changes to Rabies Post-Exposure Prophylaxis

Due to an increased demand for rabies post-exposure prophylaxis (RPEP), and the resulting decline in vaccine inventory, antigen-sparing regimens for RPEP have been implemented in BC. In an effort to optimize the use of the rabies vaccine, the intradermal (ID) route of administration of rabies vaccine is currently preferentially recommended for RPEP. The ID

administration of rabies vaccine is safe, effective, and recommended by the World Health Organization for RPEP. [The Interim direction for the use of rabies vaccine for post-exposure prophylaxis in BC](#) has been posted to the BCCDC website. The BC Immunization Manual, Part 4 – Biological Products, [Rabies Vaccine for Post-Exposure Prophylaxis](#) and [Appendix B – Administration of Biological Products](#) have been updated with information related to the ID administration of rabies vaccine.

 **EDUCATION**

On August 15, 2019, all BCCDC immunization courses housed on BCCDClearning.ca were moved to the [PHSA LearningHub](#). More information is available on the [BCCDC Immunization Courses](#) page. A [Q&A](#) about the migration of BCCDC Immunization Courses to PHSA LearningHub has also been developed. The CME accredited [Pearls for Immunization Practice](#) course will remain on the UBC CPD learning site.

 **RESOURCES FOR HEALTH PROFESSIONALS**

As a reminder, with influenza season around the corner, the BCCDC influenza courses, Foundations of Influenza: Disease & Vaccines and the Seasonal Influenza Update – 2019/20 have been updated and can be accessed through [LearningHub](#).

Immunization Communication Tool for Immunizers (ICT) Survey

On behalf of the Professional Education Working Group (PEWG) we would like to invite you to participate in a short [survey](#) about the [Immunization Communication Tool for Immunizers](#). The survey findings will support revisions to the current ICT. The survey will close on September 13, 2019.

 **VACCINE SAFETY**

Updates to the BC AEFI case report form and AEFI Reporting User Guide

The BC adverse event following immunization (AEFI) case report form and user guide for completing the AEFI form were updated July 2, 2019. The user guide has been restructured to support health care providers reporting an AEFI using the AEFI case report form (hard copy or in Panorama). Definitions for the variables on the form and available options are provided. Both documents are available on the [surveillance forms page](#) on the BCCDC website under the Adverse Events Following Immunization tab.

Action: Please replace any outdated copies of the AEFI case report form or AEFI Data Entry Guidelines maintained internally or on your health authority website with the latest documents.



Help prepare students for vaccination day

This fall, Kids Boost Immunity (KBI) has a new lesson to help prepare grade 6 students for vaccination day. The lesson covers how vaccines work, why students need vaccines, the HPV vaccine, what students can expect on vaccination day and tips for making vaccination day easier. Teachers are asked to do the lesson with their students before vaccination day. The intent is for the lesson and quiz to lead to more conversations about vaccines at home, more consent forms being returned and more students getting vaccinated.

If you are a public health nurse please give the [Prepare your Students for Immunization Day](#) flyer to grade 6 teachers when you drop off the consent form packages. Health units will be receiving these flyers to promote this lesson. Please help us spread the word!

 **KUDOS**

In response to an increase of measles cases, the BC government launched the Measles Immunization Catch-up Program. Thank you to all of those involved in making the campaign a success. For more information on the campaign, see the Provincial Health Officers' [measles report](#).