
Medical Directive: Administration of COVID-19 Vaccine

Approved by: Dr. Janice Fitzgerald, Chief Medical Officer of Health

Review Frequency: This medical directive will be reviewed quarterly during the COVID-19 immunization campaign and will be updated as new information is obtained with appropriate attention to ensuring the most current version is in use.

Date Originated: January 14, 2021

Date Reviewed: November 5, 2021

RESPONSIBILITY FOR OFFERING AND ADMINISTERING VACCINE:

The following health care professionals may administer COVID-19 vaccine, including booster doses of COVID-19 vaccine, following completion of the required education to enable vaccine administration:

- Occupational health nurses, other registered nurses, licensed practical nurses and nurse collegians
- Midwives;
- Paramedics (including PCPs and ACPs).

Operation under this medical directive requires that:

- Health professionals have current certification in Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) and Basic Life Support (BLS). An exception to this requirement can occur in a large community clinic setting provided that there are sufficient number of health professionals with CPR and BLS training to ensure adequate coverage for the clinic in case of emergency.
- Emergency Kits are present at all times, and all equipment in the kits are checked to be sure they are present and have not expired. See the [NL Provincial Immunization Manual](#) and [Canadian Immunization Guide](#) for additional details.
- The Immunizers must abide by the infection prevention and control requirements found in the [Guidance for Immunization Clinics](#), including wearing the appropriate personal protective equipment, performing hand hygiene and remaining 2 metres apart from others except as required to offer immunizations.

RECOMMENDED RECIPIENTS OF VACCINE:

Recommended recipients of COVID-19 vaccine are based on recommendations from the National Advisory Committee on Immunization (NACI):

<https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/immunization/national-advisory-committee-on-immunization-naci/recommendations-use-covid-19-vaccines.html>

CONTRAINDICATIONS AND PRECAUTIONS:

Contraindications and precautions related to specific vaccines are described in the Newfoundland and Labrador Immunization Manual, the Canadian Immunization Guide, the Compendium of Pharmaceuticals and Specialties (CPS) or package inserts and may also be communicated by specific notices from the Chief Medical Officer of Health.

IMMUNIZATION PROCEDURE:

As outlined in the Provincial Immunization Manual

<https://www.gov.nl.ca/hcs/files/publichealth-cdc-pdf-section-3-routine-immunization-products-dec-3.pdf>

CONSENT

After positively identifying the client to be immunized, the immunizing professional will:

- Inform the client, parent or substitute decision maker of the vaccine recommendations, benefits and risks.
- Provide a fact sheet with information regarding the vaccine.
- Use assessment and history-taking skills to determine whether immunization is appropriate at a given time, enquiring about immunization history, health history, current health status and specific product precautions.
- Obtain informed consent from the client and ensure the consent form provided for the vaccine is completed.
- Withhold the vaccination when consent is withheld or there is doubt as to whether a vaccine should be given until discussed with a communicable disease control nurse or the Medical Officer of Health.

ADMINISTRATION

The immunizing professional will:

- Check the vaccine name.
- Check the expiry date on the vaccine.
- Inspect the product for integrity and irregularities.
- Administer the vaccine according to product recommendations.

ADVERSE REACTIONS

The immunizing professional will:

- Ensure that the vaccine recipient is observed for signs of acute allergic reaction for the post-immunization waiting period. For the most up-to-date guidelines regarding post-immunization wait time, review the NACI statement *“Recommendations on the Duration of the Post-vaccination Observation Period for Influenza Vaccination during the COVID-19 Pandemic.”*
- If anaphylaxis develops, refer to the latest policy and poster outlining the management of anaphylaxis in a non-hospital setting found in the Newfoundland and Labrador Immunization Manual (Section 1.8 and Appendix G)
<https://www.gov.nl.ca/hcs/files/publichealth-cdc-s1-routine-guidlins-schedules.pdf>

DOCUMENTATION/COMMUNICATION

The immunizing professional will:

- Document vaccine offers/refusals and reasons for ineligibility on the permanent record.
- Document administration of the vaccine on the immunization record (EMR, paper record or other records as may be required).
- Provide a record of immunization to the person immunized.
- Forward a copy of the record of immunization to the person’s family physician if requested.
- Document any adverse reactions, complete the Adverse Event Following Immunization report form as soon as possible after the episode, and submit the form to Communicable Disease control
<https://www.canada.ca/content/dam/phac-aspc/documents/services/immunization/aefi-form-july23-2020-eng.pdf>

LINKAGES

[Adverse Event Following Immunization report form](#)

KEY WORDS

- Immunization
- Vaccination
- Vaccine

DEFINITIONS & ACRONYMS

Adverse Health Event	An occurrence that results in an unintended outcome which negatively affects a patient's health or quality of life; Occurrence means an undesired or unplanned event that does not appear to be consistent with the safe provision of health services. (Patient Safety Act, 2017).
Agent	A person, other than an employee, authorized by Eastern Health to act on its behalf. This term includes physicians, volunteers, pastoral care workers as well as staff of contractors and other persons working within Eastern Health facilities or affiliated with Eastern Health.
I.M.	Intramuscular, as in intramuscular injection.
P.O.	Oral administration
Subcut	Subcutaneous injection.
Immunization	“Immunization” and “Vaccination” are used interchangeably to mean the process of injecting a vaccine or immunization agent so as to enable an individual to develop resistance or immunity to a disease-causing organism.
Nurse Collegian	An individual who has successfully completed Year 3 (including clinical preceptorship) of a Baccalaureate Nursing Program from an approved School of Nursing and who works under the supervision of a Registered Nurse
Vaccination	“Immunization” and “Vaccination” are used interchangeably to mean the process of injecting a vaccine or immunization agent so as to enable an individual to develop resistance or immunity to a disease-causing organism.
Vaccine	A vaccine is a pharmaceutical product used to create immunity to an infectious disease in individuals through injection or oral administration. Vaccines may be live or killed viruses or bacteria or sub-units of viruses or bacteria created through the use of genetic material.

