



ORDER OF THE PROVINCIAL HEALTH OFFICER

(Pursuant to section 13 of the *Health Professions General Regulation*, B.C. Reg 275/2008)

REGULATED AND UNREGULATED HEALTH PROFESSIONALS INFLUENZA IMMUNIZATION – NOVEMBER 4, 2022

WHEREAS:

- A. On March 17, 2020 I provided notice under section 52 (2) of the *Public Health Act* that the transmission of the infectious agent SARS-CoV-2, which has caused cases and outbreaks of a serious illness known as COVID-19 among the population of the Province of British Columbia, constitutes a regional event as defined in section 51 of the *Public Health Act* (the “**Emergency**”);
- B. Over the course of the Emergency the public health and the health-care systems have experienced severe stress and been stretched beyond capacity in their efforts to prevent and respond to illness resulting from the transmission of COVID-19 in the population;
- C. On January 9, 2022, I made the *Regulated and Unregulated Health Professionals SARS-CoV-2 Immunization Order* (“SARS-CoV-2 Immunization Order”) which permitted persons referred to in that order to perform Immunization Activities in the course of a SARS-CoV-2 immunization program approved by a medical health officer and in accordance with Specific Limits and Mandatory Training described in that order;
- D. SARS-CoV-2 immunization programs approved by medical health officers are currently operating throughout the province staffed, in part, by persons authorized by me pursuant to the SARS-CoV-2 Immunization Order;
- E. Influenza is a contagious respiratory illness caused by influenza viruses. Influenza spreads easily from person to person. Influenza can cause mild to severe illness, aggravate existing medical conditions, and sometimes result in other severe infections such as pneumonia, all of which can lead to hospitalization and death. The best way to prevent influenza is for a person to get an influenza vaccine each year;
- F. Persons infected with influenza, or who develop complications of influenza, will place further strain on the public health and the health-care systems generally. In particular, this strain will be on the health human resource capacity of the public health and health-care systems, which is already strained due to the Emergency;
- G. In order to best prepare for the twin threats of two serious respiratory diseases occurring simultaneously, vaccination for SARS-CoV-2 and influenza should be given at the same time. Simultaneous administration of the vaccines is an efficient use of strained health human resources;

H. Administration of both vaccines in public health clinics is also convenient for the public and will result in a greater uptake of persons receiving the influenza vaccine which, in turn, will result in fewer persons becoming seriously ill and putting further strain on the hospital, community and health-care sector generally;

I. I am of the opinion that:

(a) it is necessary to make this order for the purpose of responding to the Emergency because an increase in the number of persons infected with influenza will lead to an increase in the number of persons admitted to hospital which would, in turn, further jeopardize the ability of the health sector to respond to the Emergency;

(b) allowing Authorized Health Professionals to also administer influenza vaccines, such that influenza and COVID-19 vaccines may be administered in public health clinics by the same providers, is in the public interest because this approach

(i) is the most efficient use of scarce health human resources,

(ii) is most efficient for members of the public who wish to receive an influenza vaccine and a SARS-CoV-2,

(iii) the combined effect of the factors in (a) and (b) will result in a greater uptake of persons receiving the influenza vaccine and, in turn, reduce the incidence of illness and hospitalization of persons due to influenza, and the complications of influenza, which will lessen the demand on the public health and health-care systems and help preserve the capacity of those systems to respond to the Emergency.

J. Immunization against infection with the influenza virus includes one or more of the activities set out in column B of Appendix A (each an “Immunization Activity”);

K. For the purposes of applying this order to a particular Authorized Health Professional:

(a) the authorized Immunization Activities are specifically set out in the entry in column B of Appendix A that corresponds to the Authorized Health Professional,

(b) for greater certainty, the authorized Immunization Activities specifically exclude the services (if any) set out in the entry in column C of Appendix A that corresponds to the Authorized Health Professional,

(c) the applicable specific limits (the “**Specific Limits**”) are set out in the entry in column D of Appendix A that corresponds to the Authorized Health Professional,

(d) the applicable mandatory training (the “**Mandatory Training**”) is set out in the entry in column E of Appendix A that corresponds to the Authorized Health Professional and the corresponding entries of Appendix B.

I, Dr. Bonnie Henry, Provincial Health Officer, order that notwithstanding any requirements set out in a health profession regulation that conflict or may conflict with this order, an Authorized

Health Professional is authorized to perform an Immunization Activity, subject to the following conditions:

1. The Immunization Activity must be performed in the course of providing an influenza immunization program approved by a medical health officer with responsibility for the geographic area in which the Immunization Activity is performed.
2. The Immunization Activity must be conducted in accordance with the resources issued by the BC Centre for Disease Control (the “**Resources**”) posted at the following website:
<http://www.bccdc.ca/health-info/diseases-conditions/covid-19/covid-19-vaccine/resources-for-health-professionals>
3. The Authorized Health Professional must complete all Mandatory Training before performing the Immunization Activity.
4. The Authorized Health Professional must comply with the Specific Limits (if any).
5. The Authorized Health Professional’s employer or a medical health officer must first assess the Authorized Health Professional’s competence to perform the Immunization Activity in a manner that is safe for both the patient and the Authorized Health Professional, including by requiring the Authorized Health Professional to demonstrate knowledge and skill, in accordance with the Resources, respecting the Immunization Activity. The Authorized Health Professional’s employer may only make this assessment if the employer is a registrant, or is acting on the advice of a registrant, who has assessed the Authorized Health Professional and who is authorized under a health profession regulation, and competent, to perform the Immunization Activity.

Unless repealed earlier, this order will end on the date that I provide notice under section 59 (b) of the *Public Health Act* that the Emergency has passed.

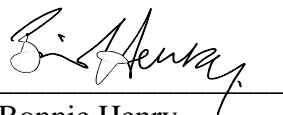
DATED THIS 4th day of November 2022.

You may contact me at:

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SIGNED:



Bonnie Henry
OBC, MD, MPH, FRCPC
Provincial Health Officer

DELIVERY BY posting on the BC Government and on the BC Centre for Disease Control websites.

Appendix A: Immunization Activity, Limitations and Mandatory Training

Note: this list does not include health professionals who can normally provide immunization services under their health profession regulations (e.g. Medical Practitioners, Registered Nurses, Registered Psychiatric Nurses, Licensed Practical Nurses, Pharmacists and Naturopathic Physicians).

Column A: Authorized Health Professional	Column B: Authorized Immunization Activities:	Column C: Services specifically <u>excluded from the authorized Immunization Activity</u> :	Column D: Specific Limits:	Column E: Mandatory Training (refer to the letters in Appendix B, Column A for information on the training resource)
Dentist	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Initial patient assessment, including review of patient assessment forms to determine suitability of a patient for immunization and obtaining patient consent; b. Preparation of vaccines, including the drawing of doses from a vial; c. Administering an influenza vaccine via intramuscular injection or intranasal spray; 			A

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> d. Post-immunization monitoring of the patient, including monitoring for adverse events (i.e. anaphylaxis), situation assessment and treatment of adverse events. 			
Midwife	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Initial patient assessment, including review of patient assessment forms to determine suitability of a patient for immunization and obtaining patient consent; b. Preparation of vaccines, including the drawing of doses from a vial; c. Administering an influenza vaccine via intramuscular injection or intranasal spray; d. Post-immunization monitoring of the patient, including monitoring for adverse events (i.e. anaphylaxis), situation 			A

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	assessment and treatment of adverse events.			
Retired Registered Nurse, Retired Registered Psychiatric Nurse (not registered with the British Columbia College of Nurses and Midwives)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Initial patient assessment, including review of patient assessment forms to determine suitability of a patient for immunization and obtaining patient consent; b. Preparation of vaccines, including the drawing of doses from a vial; c. Administering an influenza vaccine via intramuscular injection or intranasal spray; d. Post-immunization monitoring of the patient, including monitoring for adverse events (i.e. anaphylaxis), situation assessment and treatment of adverse events. 		Must be supervised by a registrant who is authorized under a health profession regulation, and competent, to perform the Immunization Activity.	A, B, D

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Retired Licensed Practical Nurse (not registered with the British Columbia College of Nurses and Midwives)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Initial patient assessment of stable and predictable patients, including review of patient assessment forms to determine suitability of a patient for immunization and obtaining patient consent; b. Preparation of vaccines, including the drawing of doses from a vial; c. Administering an influenza vaccine via intramuscular injection or intranasal spray; d. Post-immunization monitoring of the patient, including monitoring for adverse events (i.e. anaphylaxis), situation assessment and treatment of adverse events. 		<p>Must be supervised by a registrant who is authorized under a health profession regulation, and competent, to perform the Immunization Activity.</p> <p>Must only provide initial patient assessment for stable and predictable patients.</p>	A, B, D

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Retired Midwife (not registered with the British Columbia College of Nurses and Midwives)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Initial patient assessment, including review of patient assessment forms to determine suitability of a patient for immunization and obtaining patient consent; b. Preparation of vaccines, including the drawing of doses from a vial; c. Administering an influenza vaccine via intramuscular injection or intranasal spray; d. Post-immunization monitoring of the patient, including monitoring for adverse events (i.e. anaphylaxis), situation assessment and treatment of adverse events. 		Must be supervised by a registrant who is authorized under a health profession regulation, and competent, to perform the Immunization Activity.	A, B, D
Employed Student Nurse, Employed Student Psychiatric Nurse, Student enrolled	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Initial patient assessment, including review of patient assessment forms to determine 		Must be supervised by a registered nurse or registered psychiatric	A, B, D

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in Registered Nursing program, Registered Psychiatric Nursing program	<p>suitability of a patient for immunization and obtaining patient consent.</p> <p>b. Preparation of vaccines, including the drawing of doses from a vial;</p> <p>c. Administering an influenza vaccine via intramuscular injection or intranasal spray;</p> <p>d. Post-immunization monitoring of the patient, including monitoring for adverse events (i.e. anaphylaxis), situation assessment and treatment of adverse events.</p>		nurse who is authorized under the <i>Nurses (Registered) and Nurse Practitioners Regulation</i> or the <i>Nurses (Registered Psychiatric) Regulation</i> , and competent, to perform the Immunization Activity.	
Student enrolled in Licensed Practical Nursing program	<p>a. Initial patient assessment of stable and predictable patients, including review of patient assessment forms to determine suitability of a patient for immunization and obtaining patient consent.</p>		Must be supervised by a registered nurse, registered psychiatric nurse or licensed practical nurse who is authorized under the <i>Nurses (Registered)</i>	A, B, D

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> b. Preparation of vaccines, including the drawing of doses from a vial; c. Administering an influenza vaccine via intramuscular injection or intranasal spray; d. Post-immunization monitoring of the patient, including monitoring for adverse events (i.e. anaphylaxis), situation assessment and treatment of adverse events. 		<p><i>and Nurse Practitioners Regulation, the Nurses (Registered Psychiatric) Regulation or the Nurses (Licensed Practical) Regulation, and competent, to perform the Immunization Activity.</i></p> <p>Must only provide initial patient assessment for stable and predictable patients.</p>	
Student enrolled in Midwifery program	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Initial patient assessment, including review of patient assessment forms to determine suitability of a patient for 		<p>Must be supervised by a registrant who is authorized under a health profession regulation, and</p>	A, B, D

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	<p>immunization and obtaining patient consent.</p> <p>b. Preparation of vaccines, including the drawing of doses from a vial;</p> <p>c. Administering an influenza vaccine via intramuscular injection or intranasal spray;</p> <p>d. Post-immunization monitoring of the patient, including monitoring for adverse events (i.e. anaphylaxis), situation assessment and treatment of adverse events.</p>		competent, to perform the Immunization Activity.	
Dental Hygienist	<p>a. Preparation of vaccines, including the drawing of doses from a vial;</p> <p>b. Administering an influenza vaccine via intramuscular injection or intranasal spray;</p>	<p>a. Initial patient assessment, including review of patient assessment forms to determine suitability of a patient for immunization and</p>	Must be supervised by a registrant who is authorized under a health profession regulation, and competent, to perform the Immunization Activity.	A, B, D

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> c. Post-immunization monitoring of the patient, including monitoring for adverse events (i.e. anaphylaxis), situation assessment and treatment of adverse events. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> obtaining patient consent. 		
Podiatrist	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Preparation of vaccines, including the drawing of doses from a vial; b. Administering an influenza vaccine via intramuscular injection or intranasal spray; c. Post-immunization monitoring of the patient, including monitoring for adverse events (i.e. anaphylaxis), situation assessment and treatment of adverse events. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Initial patient assessment, including review of patient assessment forms to determine suitability of a patient for immunization and obtaining patient consent. 	<p>Must be supervised by a registrant who is authorized under a health profession regulation, and competent, to perform the Immunization Activity.</p>	<p>A, B, D</p>
Retired Medical Practitioner (not registered with the College of Physicians)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Initial patient assessment, including review of patient assessment forms to determine 		<p>Must be supervised by a registrant who is authorized under a</p>	<p>B, C, D</p>

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and Surgeons of British Columbia)	<p>suitability of a patient for immunization and obtaining patient consent;</p> <p>b. Preparation of vaccines, including the drawing of doses from a vial;</p> <p>c. Administering an influenza vaccine via intramuscular injection or intranasal spray;</p> <p>d. Post-immunization monitoring of the patient, including monitoring for adverse events (i.e. anaphylaxis), situation assessment and treatment of adverse events.</p>		health profession regulation, and competent, to perform the Immunization Activity.	
International Medical Graduate (Not registered with the College of Physicians and Surgeons of British Columbia)	<p>a. Preparation of vaccines, including the drawing of doses from a vial;</p>	<p>a. Initial patient assessment, including review of patient assessment forms to determine suitability of a patient for</p>	Must be supervised by a registrant who is authorized under a health profession regulation, and competent, to perform	A, B, D

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<p>Must have:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. a medical degree from a medical school outside of Canada listed in the World Directory of Medical Schools, which includes a sponsor note indicating it is an accepted medical school in Canada, b. a medical degree that has been verified by physicianapply.ca, and successful completion of the Medical Council of Canada Qualifying Exam Part 1 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> b. Administering an influenza vaccine via intramuscular injection or intranasal spray; c. Post-immunization monitoring of the patient, including monitoring for adverse events (i.e. anaphylaxis), situation assessment and treatment of adverse events. 	<p>immunization and obtaining patient consent.</p>	<p>the Immunization Activity.</p>	

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c. proof of British Columbia residence				
Anesthesia Assistant	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Preparation of vaccines, including the drawing of doses from a vial; b. Administering an influenza vaccine via intramuscular injection or intranasal spray; c. Post-immunization monitoring of the patient, including monitoring for adverse events (i.e. anaphylaxis), situation assessment and treatment of adverse events. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Initial patient assessment, including review of patient assessment forms to determine suitability of a patient for immunization and obtaining patient consent. 	Must be supervised by a registrant who is authorized under a health profession regulation, and competent, to perform the Immunization Activity.	A, B, D
Medical Laboratory Technologist/ Medical Laboratory Assistant	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Administering an influenza vaccine via intramuscular injection or intranasal spray; 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Initial patient assessment, including review of patient assessment forms to determine suitability of a patient for 	Must be supervised by a registrant who is authorized under a health profession regulation, and competent, to perform	A, B, D

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		<p>immunization and obtaining patient consent;</p> <p>b. Preparation of vaccines, including the drawing of doses from a vial;</p> <p>c. Post-immunization monitoring of the patient, including monitoring for adverse events (i.e. anaphylaxis), situation assessment and treatment of adverse events.</p>	the Immunization Activity.	
Pharmacy Technician	<p>a. Preparation of vaccines, including the drawing of doses from a vial;</p> <p>b. Administering an influenza vaccine via intramuscular injection or intranasal spray;</p>	<p>a. Initial patient assessment, including review of patient assessment forms to determine suitability of a patient for immunization and</p>	When administering an injection of an influenza vaccine, must be supervised by a registrant who is authorized under a health profession	A, B, D

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> obtaining patient consent; b. Post-immunization monitoring of the patient, including monitoring for adverse events (i.e. anaphylaxis), situation assessment and treatment of adverse events. 	regulation, and competent, to perform the Immunization Activity.	
Dental Therapist	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Preparation of vaccines, including the drawing of doses from a vial; b. Administering an influenza vaccine via intramuscular injection or intranasal spray; c. Post-immunization monitoring of the patient, including monitoring for adverse events (i.e. anaphylaxis), situation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Initial patient assessment, including review of patient assessment forms to determine suitability of a patient for immunization and obtaining patient consent. 	Must be supervised by a registrant who is authorized under a health profession regulation, and competent, to perform the Immunization Activity.	A, B, D

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	assessment and treatment of adverse events.			

Appendix B: Training Materials

Column A: Training	Column B: Resources	Column C: Link to Materials
A	BC Centre for Disease Control's Influenza Immunization Competency Course	https://learninghub.phsa.ca/Courses/19654/
B	In-person education and clinical lab training to perform intramuscular injections as per the BC Centre for Disease Control's – Influenza Immunization Skills Checklist	http://www.bccdc.ca/resource-gallery/Documents/Guidelines%20and%20Forms/Guidelines%20and%20Manuals/Immunization/Vaccine%20Safety/INFLUENZA-IMMUNIZATION-SKILLS-CHECKLIST.pdf
C	BC Centre for Disease Control's Seasonal Influenza Update	https://learninghub.phsa.ca/Courses/29136/
D	Anaphylaxis Initial Emergency Treatment by Nurses (Adult & Pediatric)	https://learninghub.phsa.ca/Courses/19708/