

Pharmacists in B.C. are authorized to administer immunizations by:

- Subcutaneous, intradermal and intramuscular injection, for people 4 years and older
- Intranasal route for individuals 2 years and older

Vaccines can be public (free to eligible residents) or private (paid out of pocket). Pharmacists must explain publicly funded options before discussing private options.

**BC Centre for Disease Control (BCCDC)** publishes the definitive clinical guide.

The [BCCDC Immunization Manual](#) covers:



- Scheduling, dosing, vaccine types
- Preparation, storage, cold chain
- Client eligibility, assessment, pain management
- Administering multiple vaccines, injection sites
- Reporting adverse events (AEFI) Documentation

[Part 4–Biological Products](#) has product-specific information

**BC PharmaCare** pays pharmacies a fee for vaccine administrations.

The [Publicly funded vaccines](#) webpage has:

- Fees and claims procedures
- Provider eligibility
- Product PINs and DINs



**PharmaCare administration fees**

- \$12.10 for publicly funded vaccines (including COVID-19 vaccines)
- \$11.41 for non-publicly funded vaccine

[Pharmacists and Publicly Funded Vaccines in B.C.](#) is a booklet produced especially for pharmacists.



The College of Pharmacists of BC sets regulatory standards: [HPA Bylaws Schedule F Part 4](#)



### Prescription requirements:

- Schedule I vaccines: Prescription required
- Schedule II vaccines: No prescription required

### Documentation

- Record vaccines in:
  - [ImmsBC](#): Publicly funded COVID-19 and flu vaccines
  - PharmaNet: All other vaccines
- Include lot numbers (SIG field)
- Keep records on site for 4 years

### Outbreak response and special campaigns

Pharmacists may be asked to help with special campaigns. Subscribe to the [PharmaCare Newsletter](#) for awareness.

### Adverse events (AEFIs) & errors

AEFIs must be reported to [local health units](#) (not directly by clients). Review page 2.

### Vaccine supply & cold chain

- Influenza vaccines: Order from pharmacy distributors
- COVID-19 & flu vaccines: Order from [BCPhA](#)
- Other vaccines: Order through local health units only
- Maintain +2°C to +8°C during storage and transport
- Use approved containers, coolers, and gel packs
- Document and monitor temperatures twice daily

### Administering vaccines

- Determine eligibility and obtain informed consent
- Use safety-engineered needles (WorkSafeBC)
- Gloves not routinely needed unless skin lesions or contact risk present
- Administer all indicated vaccines in one visit if possible

### Vaccine returns and waste

- Return expired/unused vaccines to LHU when required (except COVID-19 vaccines)
- COVID-19 and flu vaccine waste: log in [ImmsBC](#), dispose on site

**Scenario:** A client reports an AEFI to the pharmacist/delegate who administered the immunization.

### Pharmacist responsibilities

Has the client reported the AE to another health care professional?

- **If yes**, provide clinical support as needed. No report needed.
- **If no**, does the AE meet reporting and temporal criteria as per [BC Immunization Manual, Part 5: Adverse Events Following Immunization](#)?
  - **If no**, provide clinical support as needed. No report needed
  - **If yes**, follow the 5 steps below

1. Complete [AEFI Case Report Form](#)
2. If client sought medical attention for the AE, request their consent to:
  - a. Access medical report
  - b. Inform primary health provider of public health recommendations once received
3. Send AEFI Case Report Form and supporting documents, if applicable, within 24 hours of completing/receiving them to public health as per [AEFI Reporting Map](#)

### Public health nurse responsibilities

1. Enters data in electronic information system
2. Stores AEFI case report as per health authority guidelines
3. Obtains & documents recommendations from MHO/designate
4. Provides MHO recommendations to reporting pharmacist

### Pharmacist responsibilities (cont.)

4. Inform client and physician, if applicable, of MHO recommendations
5. Update client's PharmaNet profile and local record to finalize AEFI documentation



[AEFI Case Report form](#)



[BC Immunization Manual, Part 5: Adverse Events Following Immunization](#)



[AEFI Reporting Map](#)