

It's the Law: Report Adverse Events Following Immunization (AEFI)

What to Report

Following immunization, you are required **BY LAW** to report the following adverse events that may occur to Public Health.

Serious Adverse Events

Report within 1 working day

Any serious reaction that:

- Is life-threatening – e.g., anaphylaxis, Guillain-Barré Syndrome
- Causes or prolongs hospitalization \geq 24 hours
- Results in permanent disability or congenital malformation
- Is fatal

Other Adverse Events

Report within 5 working days

- Neurological events including febrile and afebrile convulsions
- Associated events where medical attention is required
- Events where consideration must be given to postpone or contraindicate future immunizations
- Unexpected events with no alternative explanation

What NOT to Report

Do not report minor expected reactions such as localized tenderness, as outlined in the product monograph, unless they are more severe or more frequent than expected.

How to Report

1. Consult your local Public Health office to determine if an AEFI form should be completed.
2. If required, download and complete the AEFI form: <https://www.canada.ca/content/dam/phac-aspc/documents/services/immunization/aefi-form-october-2021-eng.pdf>
3. Send the completed form to your local Public Health office.

Western Zone

South Shore
Tel: 902-543-0850
Fax: 902-527-4208

South West
Tel: 902-742-7141
Fax: 902-742-3083

Annapolis Valley
Tel: 902-542-6310
Fax: 902-542-4429

Northern Zone

Colchester East Hants
Tel: 902-893-5820
Fax: 902-893-2614

Cumberland
Tel: 902-667-3319
Fax: 902-893-2614

Pictou County
Tel: 902-752-5151
Fax: 902-893-2614

Eastern Zone

Guysborough/Antigonish
Tel: 902-867-4500
ext.4800
Fax: 902-863-5111

Cape Breton
Tel: 902-563-2400
Fax: 902-563-2005

Central Zone

Tel: 902-481-5800
Fax: 902-481-5889

Primary care providers can access the Special Immunization Clinic (SIC) as an additional resource. Following immunization, adults and children who experience potentially severe adverse events such as suspected allergic events, Arthus reaction or nodule at the injection site, neurological symptoms, hypotonic hyporesponsive episodes or persistent crying for >3 hours and who require further immunizations may be referred to the SIC for evaluation by an infectious disease specialist or allergist, as appropriate. Referrals may be faxed to 902-470-7232, Attention: SIC. For more information about the SIC, please contact sicnurse@iwk.nshealth.ca or call the SIC nurse at 902-470-7859.