

**Date:** May 26, 2021  
**To:** VCH MHOs, Immunization Leads, All VCH Immunization Providers  
**From:** Dr. Meena Dawar (MHO) & Hang Chou (Regional Immunization Clinical Resource Nurse)  
**Re:** Adverse Event Following Immunization (AEFI) Reporting Guideline for 2021

**AEFI Reported to Community Health Office/Centre**

**Step 1: Does the event meet temporal and case definition reporting criteria?**

**Reporting criteria for Adverse Events Following Immunizations (AEFI) include two elements:**

- Symptoms must meet the case definition **AND** the interval between vaccine administration and symptom onset are consistent with reporting guidelines.
- Refer to [BCCDC Immunization Manual -Part 5, Section 6: Adverse Events Following Immunization](#)
- Both criteria must be met for an AEFI is reportable.

**If event meets the reporting criteria**

- Complete [AEFI Case Report Form](#) in PARIS.
- Document interval between immunization and onset of each symptom, duration of symptom(s) and outcome.
- Applicable boxes are checked off and a description of the event documented in comments.
- Ensure no identifiable information is noted in comments field.
- Attach pertinent documents such as anaphylaxis worksheet.
- Events are now reported under the Public Health Act; please remind clients that their events will be reported for the purpose of vaccine safety surveillance.
- When complete, send email notification to MHO Dr. Meena Dawar: [meena.dawar@vch.ca](mailto:meena.dawar@vch.ca) and Regional Immunization Clinical Resource Nurse: [hang.chou@vch.ca](mailto:hang.chou@vch.ca)
- Include in the email subject: "AEFI. PID#."  
 email body: 1. vaccine administered; 2. date reported; 3. brief description of the event.

**If event does not meet the reporting criteria\*:**

- Document in PARIS immunization case note. Event does not require reporting on PARIS AEFI form.
- Provide clinical management advice to client/caregiver and document as per usual nursing practice.
- If PARIS AEFI form was initiated, mark 'entered in error' on AEFI form.
- \*Please find a list of commonly reported events that do not need to be reported.

**If uncertain whether event meets reporting criteria:**

- Refer to the [BCCDC Immunization Manual - Part 5, Section 6: Adverse Events Following Immunization](#)
- If there are any questions regarding the adverse event, connect with your COC Immunization Lead:
  - Vancouver Community: Hang Chou (Regional Immunization Clinical Resource Nurse)
  - Richmond: Anne Beetstra
  - Coastal Urban: Nicole Roy
  - Coastal Rural:
    - Sea to Sky : Kate O'Connor
    - Sunshine Coast/Powell River: Jayna DeRoos
    - Bella's: Hang Chou

**Step 2: AEFI event reviewed by Regional Immunization MHO/Physician Consultant or Regional Vaccine Safety nurse.**

- All reportable AEFI events will be reviewed by the Regional Immunization MHO/Physician Consultant or the Regional Immunization Clinical Resource Nurse.
- The PARIS record will be signed off by the Regional Immunization MHO/Physician Consultant or the Regional Immunization Clinical Resource Nurse
- The PHN who submitted the adverse event will receive an email notification that the review is complete.

**Step 3: Provide clinical recommendation to the client.**

Clinical recommendation will generally be provided to the client by the PHN who submitted the adverse event:

- The PHN will receive an email from Regional Immunization MHO/Physician Consultant or Regional Immunization Clinical Resource Nurse indicating that the recommendation section is complete and asking the PHN to communicate the recommendation to the client.

**Step 4: AEFI Report to BCCDC for Disease Control (BCCDC)**

- The Regional Immunization MHO/Physician Consultant will send a copy to BCCDC.

**Step 5: Sending a copy to the client's physician and alternate reporters.**

A copy of AEFI reports should also be sent to the client's physician and occupational health program (if applicable) as follows:

- **For Vancouver** - Regional CDC Program Assistant prints the report and sends.
- **For Coastal Urban/Rural** - PHN prints the report and sends.
- **For Richmond** - PHN prints the report and sends.

**Step 6: Common events that should not be reported.**

Refer to [BCCDC adverse-events-following-immunization](#)

- Local reaction of pain, swelling, redness, or rash occurring after 48 hrs.
- Delayed local reaction especially with COVID-19 Moderna vaccine (initial local pain, resolves, returns after 8-10 days).
- Anaesthesia/paresthesia lasting less than 24 hours.
- Syncope that did not require hospital or urgent care services.
- Cellulitis that was not diagnosed by a physician.
- Adenopathy/Lymphadenopathy that was not diagnosed by a physician
- Vomiting and diarrhea with less than 3 episodes in 24 hours.
- Events that have another obvious cause.
- Non-specific systemic reactions (for e.g., headache, myalgia) that are expected side effects following the vaccine.
- Generalized rash for which no medical attention was sought.
- Generalized rashes occurring after 7 days.

*Note: a rash diagnosed as hives should be reported as an allergic reaction.*

- **Clients residing outside of VCH region:**
  - [Refer to BCCDC "Where to SEND an AEFI Report"](#)