Date:	**November 22, 2021**
To:	**VCH MHOs, Immunization Leads, All VCH Immunization Providers**
From:	**Regional Immunization Team**
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 ReportForm 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 vaccine.adverse.events@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: Regional PHN Mila Lukomskyj: mila.lukomskyj@vch.ca
  Richmond: Kim Bourhill kim.bourhill@vch.ca
  Coastal Urban: Cheryl Pepin cheryl.pepin@vch.ca
  Coastal Rural:
  - Sea to Sky: Kate O'Connor kate.oconnor@vch.ca
  - Sunshine Coast/Powell River/Bella Bella/Bella Coola: Jayna DeRoon jayna.deRoon@vch.ca

Step 2: AEFI event reviewed by Regional Immunization MHO/Physician Consultant or Regional Public Health Nurse

- All reportable AEFI events will be reviewed by the Regional Immunization MHO/ Physician Consultant or the Regional PHN
- The PARIS record will be signed off by the Regional Immunization MHO/Physician Consultant or the Regional PHN
- 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 PHN indicating that the recommendation section is complete and asking the PHN to communicate the recommendation to the client.

Step 4: AEFI Report to BC Centre 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"