

The Immunizer

A quarterly newsletter for community vaccine providers (CVP) in the Interior Health Region.

June 2023

RABIES

SYMPTOMS

STAGE 1



headache



heat



loss of appetite



weakness, fatigue



nausea, vomiting



diarrhea



cough



runny nose

STAGE 2



aggression



photosensitivity



cramps



fear

STAGE 3



paralysis of the eye muscles



spitting/foam from the mouth



limb paralysis



hydrophobia

Rabies Post Exposure Prophylaxis (RPEP)

Rabies exposure season is here with an increased opportunity for contact with bats and other wildlife. It is important to ensure that patients get the necessary assessment and treatment following an animal contact (bite, scratch etc.) at an emergency department to determine whether RPEP is required. Only a Medical Health Officer can release RPEP (rabies immunoglobulin and rabies vaccine).

New pre-printed orders and a fillable, submittable RPEP Reporting form are being developed to assist emergency departments with managing animal contacts for RPEP and to facilitate the hand-over to public health. It is expected these will be rolled out in beginning of July.

In the meantime, please continue to use the following resources:

- [List of Acute Care Stocking RPEP](#)
- [Client presents at Acute Care Site Not stocking RPEP](#)
- [Client presents at Acute Care Site Stocking RPEP](#)
- [RPEP Reporting Form](#)

Community Vaccine Providers Page on IH Web

The IH Web has a [Community Vaccine Providers](#) page to provide access to immunization information. This is where you will find previous editions of The Immunizer newsletter, forms & resources as well as a one-stop shop for Influenza immunization program content. You can find this page via [InteriorHealth.ca](#) > [Health & Wellness](#) tab > [Immunization & Vaccines](#) > [Community Vaccine Providers](#). Feel free to explore along the way!

Shorter Adverse Events Reporting Form

Health care providers including physicians and pharmacists are required by law to report Adverse Events Following Immunization (AEFI) to monitor vaccine safety. Community vaccine providers can complete this 2-page, fillable [Report of AEFI form](#) and fax 250-549-6310 or email AEFIReporting@interiorhealth.ca.



COVID-19 Webinar Series Update

With the ongoing progress of the COVID-19 immunization program in BC, a number of the COVID-19 webinars were no longer current and **have been removed** from the [BCCDC COVID-19 Immunization Webinar Series](#) on LearningHub.

The newly updated [BCCDC COVID-19 Vaccines webinar](#) is now available. A short quiz is available at the end for those who wish to generate a completion certificate.

Refer to the [BC Immunization Manual, Part 4: COVID-19 Vaccines](#) for the most up-to-date guidance on COVID-19 immunization in BC.

Public Health Summer Institute 2023

The Public Health Association of BC (PHABC) presents the [Public Health Summer Institute 2023 – Online Event](#). Topics include:

- **Thursday June 22** – Unpacking the complexities of artificial intelligence and its effect on population health
- **Friday, June 23** – Healthy aging and digital equity

[Registration](#) for the event is \$50 plus GST. BC registrations receive a complimentary one-year membership with PHABC. More information will be coming over the coming weeks including information on the Scientific Program Committee, speakers and presentations.



Facts or Fakes?

The American College Health Association (ACHA) Education Centre is offering free access to a five-part webinar series called, [Facts or Fakes? Promoting Health Literacy Skills with Your Students](#). This series provides tools to help students and others navigate misinformation, disinformation and the infodemic.

Webinars are available on demand – Log in & Register to activate the sessions:

- Health Literacy 101
- Digital Wellbeing and Mental Health: Helping Me is Helping We
- Debunking Fake News
- Confronting Misinformation in our Circles of Influence
- Managing the Infodemic: Getting Started



Questions?

If you have a question, we are happy to help!

- Clinical Immunization Questions: ImmunizationProgram@interiorhealth.ca
- Biological Vaccine Product Questions: Vaccines@interiorhealth.ca

Follow us on Social Media!

