



A quarterly newsletter for community vaccine providers (CVPs) in the Interior Health region

## Spring Boosters

BC's COVID-19 spring program is expected to run from April 22 to July 31, 2026.

If members of the public have questions about booking an appointment they should contact the provincial call centre at 1-833-838-2323.

For additional information visit:

- [Respiratory illness: Getting vaccinated](#)
- [COVID-19 immunizations - Province of British Columbia](#)

## Rabies Readiness

With warmer weather, we are starting to see an expected increase in injuries related to animal interactions. These can carry a risk for rabies exposure.

Rabies transmission occurs when infected saliva or neural tissue from a rabid or potentially rabid animal enters the body through eyes, mucous membranes, or broken skin (including bites and scratches).

Interior Health Emergency Department teams can access all the resources required to assess and manage potential rabies exposures through the [Rabies Post-Exposure Prophylaxis \(RPEP\) Toolkit](#), available on the **InsideNet** under: **Clinical Care Resources** → **Emergency Care Toolkits**



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## Tetanus: Know the Risk

Tetanus isn't just about stepping on rusty nails—it's about exposure risk.

Tetanus is a serious, potentially fatal infection caused by *Clostridium tetani*, a bacterium found widely in soil, dust and animal feces. Infection occurs when spores enter the body through breaks in the skin—particularly deep, penetrating wounds.

Risk is determined by the type of wound, not the object. While contaminated wounds carry higher risk, tetanus has also followed seemingly clean injuries (e.g., kitchen knives).

### For Emergency Departments:

- Check immunization status for all wound presentations
- Follow prophylaxis guidelines on wound type and history
- Ensure tetanus vaccine supply is adequate during summer peak injury season.

Order vaccine as needed using the [Publicly Funded Vaccine Order Form](#)

**Note:** [Age Appropriate Tetanus Containing Vaccines](#) are available to order for use with children. Delaying administration by referring to Public Health often results in vaccine refusal. Having these vaccines available to offer can make all the difference!

## RPEP Reporting

Thank you to our Emergency Department teams for the important work you do in supporting patients who require rabies post-exposure prophylaxis (RPEP).

We appreciate your attention to completing and returning the [RPEP Reporting Form](#) promptly and accurately after Rablg and/or rabies vaccine is administered, enabling Public Health to provide timely follow-up and maintain continuity of care.

**We are in this together!**



### RABIES POST-EXPOSURE PROPHYLAXIS (RPEP) REPORT Emergency Department

Patient Name (last) \_\_\_\_\_  
(first) \_\_\_\_\_  
DOB (dd/mm/yyyy) \_\_\_\_\_  
PHN \_\_\_\_\_ MRN \_\_\_\_\_  
Account/Visit # \_\_\_\_\_  
**IH USE ONLY**

Rabies Immune Globulin (Rablg) Administered (Calculate dose of Rablg in mL):  Yes  No

Client Weight: \_\_\_\_\_ kg  
Dose: \_\_\_\_\_ mL

Date (dd/mm/yyyy)	Product (e.g. KAMRAB)	Anatomical Site and Side	Route	Dose (mL)	Lot Number	Administered by (Please print)

Total number of Rablg vials used: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Refused/Incomplete, indicate reason: \_\_\_\_\_

Rabies Vaccine Administered:  Yes  No

Date (dd/mm/yyyy)	Product	Anatomical Site and Side	Route	Dose (mL)	Lot Number	Administered by (Please print)

Refused/Incomplete, indicate reason: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: [ImmunizationProgram@interiorhealth.ca](mailto:ImmunizationProgram@interiorhealth.ca)

Email sent by (name): \_\_\_\_\_  
Date sent (dd/mm/yyyy) \_\_\_\_\_



## New Resources

Two new resources are now available on the BCCDC Immunization Print Materials page:

- [Combination vaccines](#)
- [Understanding the childhood immunization schedule](#)

These were developed in response to provider concern about vaccine hesitancy. Additional resources are planned as part of an ongoing update to the Immunization Communication Toolkit.

BCCDC is seeking feedback to ensure these resources meet provider needs and to guide future development.

**Survey:** [Public-facing handout provider reviews/feedback](#)

## HPV Vaccine Updates

The BC Immunization Manual was updated in March to clarify eligibility criteria. Updated indications have been included for:

- Men 27-45 years of age (inclusive) who identify as gay or bisexual or who have sex with men (GBMSM) (including those who are not yet sexually active and/or questioning their sexual orientation), and
- Individuals 27-45 years of age (inclusive) who are Two-Spirit, transgender, and/or non-binary regardless of sexual orientation or sex assigned at birth.

These changes aim to improve clarity and reduce barriers to access.

Updated indications are available on the [Human Papillomavirus Vaccine \(Gardasil®9\)](#) biologicals page and on the [HPV Immunization Program Questions and Answers for Immunization Providers](#)

# Spring Respiratory Campaign

The BC 2026 Spring Respiratory COVID-19 Vaccine Campaign is well underway. A spring dose is recommended for the following populations:

- *Adults 80 years of age and older*
- *Indigenous peoples 70 years of age and older*
- *Residents of long-term care (LTC), assisted living facilities, or alternate level of care clients awaiting placement in LTC*
- *Individuals 6 months of age and older who are moderately to severely immunosuppressed are listed in Appendices [A](#) and [B](#).*

### Order vaccine through REDCap

1. Request your link to the pre-order/order form from [Vaccines@interiorhealth.ca](mailto:Vaccines@interiorhealth.ca).
2. When you receive your link, complete your site information and submit your projected amounts of vaccine needed, i.e. how many beds are in your location.
3. Once the orders/consent are complete, return to the REDCap link and enter the actual doses required. This is the number of doses you will receive.

**Note: we require four business days prior to your clinic to prepare your order.**

If you have questions, contact: [Vaccines@interiorhealth.ca](mailto:Vaccines@interiorhealth.ca)

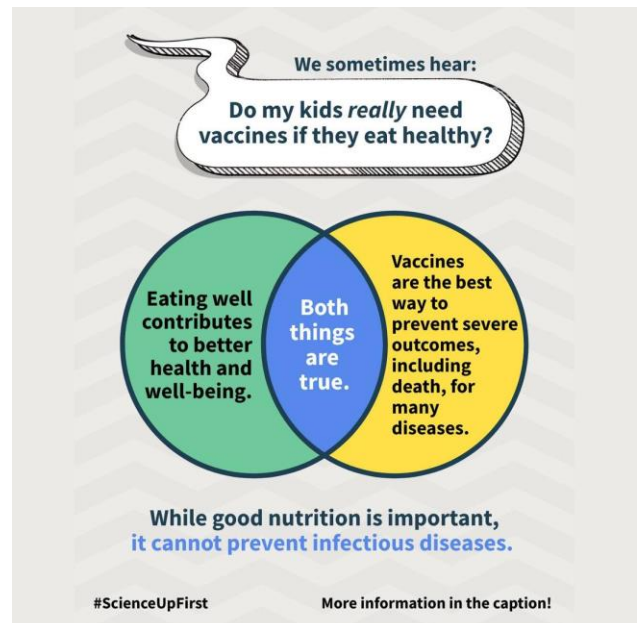
## RSV Vaccine Update

The [Respiratory Syncytial Virus \(RSV\)](#) chapter of the Canadian Immunization Guide (CIG) has been updated, reflecting National Advisory Committee on Immunization (NACI) statements issued on April 10, 2026. These updates include guidance for protecting [infants, children](#) and [older adults, as well as individuals at risk of severe disease](#).

**Note:** NACI provides national, evidence-based recommendations; however, implementation of immunization programs is a provincial responsibility. Each province, including British Columbia, determines the funding, logistics, and program delivery based on local context and epidemiology. Further RSV vaccine details are expected ahead of the fall respiratory campaign through BCCDC and other provincial channels. Stay tuned!

## ScienceUpFirst

[ScienceUpFirst](#) is a Canadian science communication initiative that works with experts to counter misinformation and share reliable, evidence-based information in clear and accessible ways. Its resources are expert-verified and designed to help people make informed choices about health and science. For health professionals, ScienceUpFirst offers useful vaccine-related content, including mythbusting resources and trusted reference links, which can support patient and client conversations, reinforce accurate information and provide reputable follow-up resources to share after a visit.



## CPHA Online Learning

Access free, evidence-based online learning for health and social service professionals on the Canadian Public Health Association (CPHA) learning site.

[Home | CPHA](#)



## Antimicrobial Stewardship Course

The Community Antimicrobial Stewardship team has updated its primary care antimicrobial stewardship course. Now titled [Optimizing Antibiotic Use in Community Practice](#), the refreshed course includes a modernized look and feel. It now includes a module for nurse prescribers.

The course offers current evidence and treatment guidance for antibiotic use in primary care, along with core antimicrobial stewardship principles and strategies. It does not include TB or STI indications.

The course is certified by UBC CPD for up to 3.5 Mainpro+ credits and is also approved as a Royal College Section 3 Accredited Self-Assessment Program with learners able to claim up to 3.5 hours.

### Questions:

[info@antibioticwise.ca](mailto:info@antibioticwise.ca)

## Reach Out!

If you have a question, we are happy to help! Contact [IIProgram@interiorhealth.ca](mailto:IIProgram@interiorhealth.ca)

Additional resources for community vaccine providers can be found here: [Community Vaccine Providers | Immunization & Vaccines | IH](#)



## IH Library Services

Check out the [Vaccine Hesitancy](#) guide from IH Library Services for a wealth of helpful, librarian-curated resources including guidelines, multimedia, books and web resources.

While there, be sure to explore the many services and resources available to support your work and wellness, such as [literature searches](#), [article delivery](#), [databases](#) and more [guides](#).

Interior Health LIBRARY SERVICES

# Vaccine Hesitancy

Topics in Focus Library Guide

Librarian-curated resources, all in one place

- ✓ InsideNet Pages
- ✓ Literature Searches
- ✓ Guidelines
- ✓ Web Resources
- ✓ Books
- ✓ Journals
- ✓ Multimedia
- ✓ Evidence-Based Practice

library@interiorhealth.ca

The graphic features a blue and yellow curved background. It includes two circular inset images: one showing a person's arm with a bandage and another showing hands typing on a laptop keyboard.

Access a wide range of books and resources on [vaccines](#) with a library account—borrow, renew, or request delivery via inter-office mail. Visit a library [location](#) to browse and pick up materials, or access [eBooks](#) instantly on the IH network [contact](#) the library for off-network access). For personal wellbeing, explore the [Employee & Physician Health & Wellness](#) guide.

## VaxED Essentials *Core education & resources for confident immunization practice*

### BC Immunization Manual

The [BC Immunization Manual](#) (BCCDC CD Control Manual, Chapter 2) outlines best practices for delivering immunization services and is the primary reference for publicly funded vaccines in BC.

### Resources

#### [HealthLinkBC Immunizations](#)

Vaccine information, schedules, aftercare, and vaccine-preventable diseases.

#### [BCCDC Immunization Clinical Resources](#)

Practical tools that supplement the BC Immunization Manual.

#### [BCCDC Immunization Communication Tool \(ICT\)](#)

Evidence-based guidance to support vaccine conversations and address hesitancy. Available online or in print (order via local Public Health or [IIProgram@interiorhealth.ca](mailto:IIProgram@interiorhealth.ca))

#### [BCCDC Immunization Print Materials](#)

Immunization record cards, brochures, and posters for clinical use.

### Courses

#### [Immunization Competency Course](#)

Foundational training for safe, effective immunization practice aligned with BC competencies. Required in some settings for autonomous immunization practice.

#### [Immunization Communication Course](#)

Focuses on vaccine hesitancy, culturally safe care, and evidence-based communication strategies, including motivational interviewing.

#### [Vaccine Storage and Handling Course](#)

Provincial standards for proper vaccine storage, handling and management.

#### [Pearls for Immunization Practice](#)

Refresher for experienced immunizers, emphasizing application and key provincial resources.