



Spring Edition
MARCH 2026

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

Spring Respiratory Campaign

While a start date has not yet been confirmed, we anticipate a Spring Respiratory Campaign will start in April.

Orders for Long Term Care and Assisted Living sites must be made separately through the REDCap program.

Do not submit one order for co-located sites. Each site must be ordered on their own REDCap link.

1. Request your link to the pre-order/order form from Vaccines@interiorhealth.ca.
2. When you receive your link, complete your site information and use the "Save and Return Later" option to submit the projected amount of vaccine required for your site.
3. When consents are returned for residents to be immunized, return to your REDCap survey & enter the ACTUAL number of doses of vaccine required. This will be the number of doses you will receive.

We require 4 business days prior to your clinic to prepare your order. If any questions, contact: Vaccines@interiorhealth.ca

Fall 2025 Respiratory Season Reporting

If your location administered any respiratory vaccines this past fall, the amounts administered MUST BE reported back to Public Health. This allows you to be allocated vaccine for the next respiratory season. If we don't receive reporting from your location, we must assume you didn't use any vaccine and will not be allocating any vaccine for your site in the upcoming RI season.

Reporting is easy. Simply complete the information via the [Community Vaccine Reporting REDCap Survey](#).

If any questions, contact: Vaccines@interiorhealth.ca



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Meet Vaxwell!

We are grateful for all the submissions we received to help us select a name for our Immunization Mascot. Congratulations to Leesa McNary and Sarra Fedick. You have each won a \$10 Timmies Gift Card!

Vaxwell is a great name because it signifies that vaccines and wellness go hand in hand. It reinforces a high standard of immunization care, reframing the conversation with the goal of wellness.

Origin Story: *Vaxwell wasn't always a giant shield. He once was a small, experimental blueprint in a lab designed to teach the body's immune system to recognize enemy invaders. Once Vaxwell realized the best way to help was to stand at the frontlines, he leveled up into his shield form. Now, he travels from town to town teaching kids and adults how to build their own personal invisible shields!*

We look forward to finding interesting ways to incorporate Vaxwell into our immunization promotion work in the future!

Making Every Interaction Count

BC's childhood immunization program is comprehensive, but missed opportunities remain one of the biggest hurdles to achieving full childhood immunization coverage.

Whether you work in a primary care/medical clinic, pharmacy, or an emergency department, checking a patient's immunization status is important – especially for those without a family doctor. For many, you are their only point of access to protection against vaccine-preventable disease.

Impact

- **Screening** during minor illness visits (like for an ear infection) can boost childhood coverage by up to **72%**.
- **Research** shows low uptake is rarely about parental refusal – it's usually because the vaccine wasn't offered ([BMJ Open 2022](#))

Action

- **Screen:** Quickly view immunization history in **CareConnect** (*access to the Provincial Immunization Registry*).
- **Refer:** As Public Health is the primary hub for childhood immunization, refer families to their local Public Health Unit to ensure they receive immunization follow-up.
- **Provide:** In some circumstances vaccine may be offered at your site for patients who would otherwise face barriers to accessing Public Health **and** you have the appropriate pediatric vaccine in stock.

Cold Chain Incidents

Have you ever wondered what to do in the event of a vaccine cold chain incident and how to properly complete the forms? Our Vaccines Team has developed the following useful YouTube video: [Discovering, responding and reporting a cold chain incident \(CCI\)](#)

RPEP

If patients present to a pharmacy looking to purchase rabies vaccine to continue a rabies post-exposure prophylaxis (RPEP) series initiated in another country or province, please be sure to refer them to local Public Health for follow-up.

If patients present to the emergency department and have had an animal contact which may require RPEP. Follow guidance provided in the Emergency Care Toolkits: [Rabies Post-Exposure Prophylaxis \(RPEP\) Toolkit](#). Contact the MHO on call if uncertain.

Tetanus Q&A

An unimmunized 4-year-old child presented to the emergency department with a puncture wound. The family is willing to get the child immunized. Should we refer them to Public Health?

Healthcare visits for injuries are vital opportunities to identify and immunize children who haven't received any vaccines. Parents may change their minds when there is a delay in offering TIG and a tetanus vaccine product due to referral to Public Health.

Did you know emergency departments can order age-appropriate tetanus-containing vaccine products? This eliminates the need to refer to Public Health for [wound prophylaxis](#), but rather for ongoing immunization follow-up. To determine the most appropriate product for age, we have created a handy [resource](#) so you can know what to offer.

It is important to have these products in stock ahead of time. Ask your pharmacy to [order](#) even just a few doses to have on hand!

New Public Health Referral Form

A new form is now available to better support referrals of adult patients to Public Health.

The Referral to Public Health for Adult Immunization and/or Tuberculosis Screening form has been developed to assist primary care providers with an improved referral mechanism to facilitate communication of the patient's clinical information for more timely public health nursing assessment and service provision.

Public Health completes the second page of the form, but if you have any additional information to further assist with the nursing assessment this can also be included.

[Printable](#) and [fillable](#) PDF copies of the form can be found on the Interior Health Website [Community Vaccine Providers](#) Page. Completed referral forms can be faxed to the local public health unit/centre.

M-M-RvaxPro®

BCCDC has recently procured additional MMR vaccine from the United Kingdom to meet supply needs. It is considered interchangeable with MMR® II product.

When ordering MMR vaccine you will likely receive M-M-RvaxPro®. See the BC Immunization Manual Biological Pages for [Measles-Mumps-Rubella Vaccine](#) for M-M-RvaxPro® details as the product monograph instructions may differ.



Tetanus

As we approach the end of winter and people are starting to get outside to do some yard and garden clean-up, it's a great time to review the [Tetanus Prophylaxis in Wound Management](#) table.

If you have CareConnect (ehealth viewer) access you can review the patient's immunization history there. Otherwise, patients who have set up [Health Gateway](#) on their phones can also access their own immunization history.

There are processes in place to guide how IH departments access immune globulin products including tetanus immune globulin (TIG). [The Quick Reference Guide: Procuring Immune Globulins in Interior Health](#) (if unable to access this link email Vaccines@interiorhealth.ca) outlines which sites stock product, where they are stored and who transport stock to other sites, as needed.

Tetanus Immune Globulin (TIG) 250 IU syringes

Stock stored in Lab.

- East Kootenay Regional Hospital (Cranbrook) 4 syringes
- Kelowna General Hospital (Kelowna) 4 syringes
- Kootenay Boundary Regional Hospital (Trail) 3 syringes
- Kootenay Lake Hospital (Nelson) 1 syringe **April-October only**
- Penticton Regional Hospital (Penticton) 2 syringes
- Royal Inland Hospital (Kamloops) 2 syringes
- Vernon Jubilee Hospital (Vernon) 1 syringe

Acute lab will coordinate transport of stock as needed.

Public Health procures stock from local vaccine depots during business hours



Western Canada Immunization Forum 2026

The annual Western Canada Immunization Forum was held virtually on two half days (February 18 & 24).

Visit the [BCCDC Immunization Forums](#) page to find recorded sessions from 2026 (will be posted early March) and from previous years!

National Immunization Awareness Week (April 23-30)

National Immunization Awareness Week (NIAW) is an annual event held in the last week of April to recognize the importance of immunization. This year the theme is: The Time is Now! Get Immunized

NIAW It is a great opportunity to champion immunizations in your department, clinic, business, or community! The [NIAW website](#) provides resources for promotional ideas!



#TheTimeIsNow #GetImmunized

Reach Out!

If you have a question, we are happy to help! Contact IIProgram@interiorhealth.ca

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

Education & Resources

BC Immunization Manual

The BC Communicable Disease Control Manual, Chapter 2: Immunization, otherwise known as the [BC Immunization Manual](#), provides best practice guidelines to direct the provision of immunization services. It is a comprehensive resource for publicly funded vaccines in BC.

Webinars & Conferences 2026

[Canadian Immunization Conference](#) – November 17-19, Toronto

Join experts and thought-provoking speakers for a scientific program that will engage and inspire future research, policies and practices.

Immunization Resources

[HealthLinkBC Immunizations](#)

Here you'll find information on vaccines, immunization schedules, after care, vaccine-preventable diseases and much more!

[BCCDC Immunization Clinical Resources](#)

The resources here are a supplement to the BC Immunization Manual and include resources to support immunizers.

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

Supports health care providers with information and tools needed to effectively communicate about vaccines and address vaccine hesitancy. Available online and as a hardcopy resource. If you are interested in ordering a physical copy – please contact your local Public Health Unit or email IIProgram@interiorhealth.ca

[BCCDC Immunization Print Materials](#)

Access to immunization record cards, brochures and posters for health professionals to use in their clinics.



Immunization Courses

[Immunization Competency Course](#)

To equip new immunizers with the knowledge necessary to provide safe and effective Immunization programs based on the [Immunization Competencies for BC Health Professionals](#). For all health professionals who administer immunizations in BC, particularly those who administer immunizations autonomously (without a physician order). This course is employer mandated in some practice settings.

[Immunization Communication Course](#)

This course is based on the BCCDC 2021 Immunization Communication Tool (ICT) and is for all interested immunizers and health care students. Through this course learners gain an understanding of vaccine hesitancy and how to respond, immunization provider's responsibility in providing culturally safe care, evidence based approaches to immunization communication, including use of motivational interviewing techniques. Learn how to answer commonly asked questions about immunization.

[Vaccine Storage and Handling Course](#)

Learn or refresh your knowledge on how to appropriately handle and store vaccines based on provincial guidelines. For those involved and interested in vaccine management.

[Pearls for Immunization Practice](#)

This course is intended for health care professionals who already have a theoretical and clinical understanding of immunization practice including those who have previously completed the BCCDC Immunization Competency course and would like to refresh their knowledge for continuing education. This course aligns with the [Immunization Competencies for BC Health Professionals](#). This course is also beneficial for health care providers who are new or returning to immunization practice in BC as it focusses on practical immunization information and emphasizes key provincial immunization resources.