

COVID-19 Immunization Policy 2021

1.0 PURPOSE

- 1.1. This policy is necessary for improved accountability and to minimize vaccine wastage of publicly funded vaccine.
- 1.2. The purpose of the COVID-19 Immunization Policy is to provide provincial direction to Health PEI immunizers and immunizers in the community who deliver PEI's publicly funded COVID-19 vaccine to Islanders with the goal of reducing the incidence and impact of COVID-19 disease in the province.
- 1.3. Collaboration, coordination and communication across all phases of the immunization process from vaccine distribution to front line immunization strengthens timely delivery of the COVID-19 immunization program while minimizing vaccine wastage.

2.0 POLICY

- 2.1. The Chief Public Health Office (CPHO) will provide COVID-19 vaccine free of charge to all individuals within the indicated age group.
- 2.2. Individuals living in Prince Edward Island who present for publicly funded COVID-19 vaccine will receive the vaccine free of charge.
 - 2.2.1. Individuals living in PEI without a PEI Health Card (students, RCMP, Department of National Defense [DND]) who present for publically funded COVID-19 vaccine will not be charged for the vaccine or administration fee.
 - 2.2.2. Individuals who do not live in PEI who require COVID-19 immunization may be charged an administration fee by the immunizer.

3.0 VACCINE PROVISION

- 3.1. The vaccine will be provided to immunizers who agree to adhere to this COVID-19 Immunization Policy.
 - 3.1.1. Immunizers must commit to having capacity to distribute the vaccine promptly and efficiently

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- 3.1.2. The vaccine must be maintained according to vaccine [Storage and Handling Guidelines](#) specific to the vaccine to ensure adequate cold-chain management.
- 3.1.3. All immunizers must be familiar with the National Advisory Committee on Immunization (NACI) statement as well as relevant vaccine product monographs.
- 3.1.4. All immunizers must follow the direction from CPHO regarding the phased offering of COVID-19 vaccines to targeted populations while vaccine is in limited supply and be familiar with the Ethical Considerations in the [Vaccine annex: Canadian Pandemic Influenza Preparedness: Planning Guidance for the Health Sector](#)
- 3.1.5. Vaccine is provided to Immunization clinics and select community pharmacies.
- 3.1.6. Vaccine is provided to First Nations Health Centres for individuals living on reserve.
- 3.1.7. Vaccine is provided to Provincial Correctional Facilities.
- 3.1.8. Vaccine is provided to long-term care.
- 3.1.9. Vaccine is provided to acute care for residents of LTC in hospital or patients who are awaiting placement in LTC.

4.0 REPORTING

- 4.1. Immunizers must keep records of all COVID-19 vaccine inventory and immunizations administered according to the [Public Health Act Immunization Regulations](#).
- 4.2. Immunizers must record and keep COVID-19 vaccine inventory records and report status updates to the CPHO on a weekly basis, or more frequently at the request of CPHO.

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- 4.3. Immunizers must report data within 48 hours of vaccine administration to the Chief Public Health Office for all COVID-19 immunization administered and in accordance with the [Public Health Act Immunization Regulations](#) (Section 1.1).
- 4.4. All immunizers must monitor the health and safety of the individuals to whom COVID-19 vaccine is administered; Immunizers shall have in place protocols for management of anaphylaxis and COVID-19 vaccine must only be administered in settings where these protocols are in place.
- 4.5. All unexpected adverse events following administration of COVID-19 vaccine must be reported to the CPHO **within 24 hours as soon as observed or reported** using the [Adverse Event Following Immunization \(AEFI\) form](#). This requirement is outlined in the [Notifiable Diseases and Conditions and Communicable Diseases Regulations](#) under the [Public Health Act](#).
- 4.6. All **expired** COVID-19 vaccine must be returned to the Provincial Pharmacy and does not require to be returned under cold chain.

5.0 APPLICATION

- 5.1. This policy applies to all immunizers who obtain publicly funded vaccine from the CPHO.
- 5.2. Compliance to this policy will be monitored by the Chief Public Health Office. Those found to be non-compliant will have restrictions placed on their ability to receive publically funded vaccines which may include not receiving further publicly funded vaccine until there is evidence that corrective measures are implemented.

6.0 DEFINITIONS

- 6.1. **Cold Chain Management** - the process used to maintain optimal conditions during the transport, storage, and handling of vaccines, from the point of manufacture until such time as the vaccine is administered to a client.
- 6.2. **Immunizer** - a health professional eligible to administer COVID-19 vaccine under this policy and includes pharmacists, nurses, nurse practitioners, and physicians.

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- 6.3. **Publicly funded COVID-19 vaccine** - vaccine that is purchased/provided annually by the Chief Public Health Office and distributed to immunizers without charge pursuant to this policy.

7.0 BACKGROUND

- 7.1. The National Advisory Committee on Immunization recommends that a complete COVID-19 vaccine series should be offered to individuals in the authorized age group without contraindications to the vaccine.
- 7.2. The goal of the COVID-19 immunization program is to prevent serious illness caused by COVID-19 and its complications, including death.
- 7.3. The Chief Public Health Office is provided COVID-19 vaccine by the federal government and provides this free of charge to immunizers to administer to the public.
- 7.4. The COVID-19 vaccine is received by the Provincial Pharmacy and distributed according to orders placed by immunizers.

8.0 KEY SEARCH WORDS

- 8.1. COVID-19 Immunization Policy; Immunization Regulations; Notifiable Diseases and Conditions and Communicable Disease Regulations.

9.0 CROSS REFERENCE

- 9.1. PEI Public Health Act; Notifiable Diseases and Conditions and Communicable Disease Regulations; Immunization Regulations.