
**Medical Directive:
Administration of Seasonal Influenza Vaccine in Regional Health Authority
Occupational Health Settings**

Approved by: Dr. Janice Fitzgerald Medical Officer of Health

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Responsibility for Offering and Administering Vaccine:

Occupational health nurses and other registered nurses and licensed practical nurses as part of a peer immunization program, employed by or affiliated with a Regional Health Authority, who have completed the required education for administration of influenza vaccine may administer influenza vaccine to workers in health care settings. These health professionals must have current certification in CPR, Basic Life Support.

Recommended Recipients of Vaccine:

Recommended recipients of influenza vaccine are identified in the Newfoundland and Labrador Immunization Manual Section 3:
http://www.health.gov.nl.ca/health/publichealth/cdc/pdf/Section_3_Routine_Immunization_Products_September_2018.pdf and further described in the Canadian Immunization Guide and the annual statement provided by the National Advisory Committee on Immunization:
<https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/publications/vaccines-immunization/canadian-immunization-guide-statement-seasonal-influenza-vaccine-2019-2020.html>

Contraindications and Precautions:

Contraindications and precautions related to specific vaccines are described in the Newfoundland and Labrador Immunization Manual, the Canadian Immunization Guide, the Compendium of Pharmaceuticals and Specialties (CPS) or package inserts and may be communicated by specific notices from the Medical Officer of Health.

Immunization Procedure:

As outlined in the Provincial Immunization Manual
http://www.health.gov.nl.ca/health/publichealth/cdc/im_section4.pdf

Consent:

After positively identifying the client to be immunized, the immunizing professional will:

- Inform the client, parent or substitute decision maker of the vaccine recommendations, benefits and risks.
- Provide a fact sheet with information regarding the vaccine.
- Use assessment and history-taking skills to determine whether immunization is appropriate at a given time, enquiring about immunization history, health history, current health status and specific product precautions.
- Obtain informed consent from the client and ensure the consent form provided for the vaccine is completed.
- Withhold the vaccination when consent is withheld or there is doubt as to whether a vaccine should be given until discussed with a communicable disease control nurse or the Medical Officer of Health.

Administration:

The immunizing professional will:

- Check the vaccine name.
- Check the expiry date on the vaccine.
- Inspect the product for integrity and irregularities.
- Administer the vaccine according to product recommendations.

Adverse Reactions:

The immunizing professional will:

- Ensure that the vaccine recipient is observed for signs of acute allergic reaction for 15 minutes post-vaccination.
- If anaphylaxis develops, refer to the latest policy and poster outlining the management of anaphylaxis in a non-hospital setting found in the Newfoundland and Labrador Immunization Manual (Section 1.8 and Appendix G)
http://www.health.gov.nl.ca/health/publichealth/cdc/S1_Routine_Guidlns_Schedules.pdf

Documentation/Communication:

The immunizing professional will:

- Document vaccine offers/refusals and reasons for ineligibility on the permanent record.
- Document administration of the vaccine on the immunization record (CRMS, paper record or other records as may be required).
- Provide a record of immunization to the person immunized.
- Forward a copy of the record of immunization to the person's family physician if requested.
- Document any adverse reactions, complete the Adverse Event Following Immunization report form as soon as possible after the episode, and submit the form to Communicable Disease control <http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/im/pdf/raefi-dmcisi-eng.pdf>

Linkages:

- Medical Directive: Administration of Seasonal Influenza Vaccine in Occupational Settings
- Adverse Event Following Immunization report form
- Disclosure policy QRM – 030

Key Words:

- Immunization
- Vaccination
- Vaccine

Definitions & Acronyms

Adverse Event	An event which results in unintended harm to the patient and is related to the care and/or services provided to the patient rather than to the patient's underlying medical condition. (Report of the Task Force on Adverse Health Events, 2008)
Agent	A person, other than an employee, authorized by Eastern Health to act on its behalf. This term includes physicians, volunteers, pastoral care workers as well as staff of contractors and other persons working within Eastern Health facilities or affiliated with Eastern Health.
I.M.	Intramuscular, as in intramuscular injection
P.O.	Oral (e.g. Rotarix)
S.C.	Subcutaneous injection
Immunization	"Immunization" and "Vaccination" are used interchangeably to mean the process of injecting a vaccine or immunization agent so as to enable an individual to develop resistance or immunity to a disease-causing organism.
Vaccination	"Immunization" and "Vaccination" are used interchangeably to mean the process of injecting a vaccine or immunization agent so as to enable an individual to develop resistance or immunity to a disease-causing organism.
Vaccine	A vaccine is a pharmaceutical product used to create immunity to an infectious disease in individuals through injection or oral administration. Vaccines may be live or killed viruses or bacteria or sub-units of viruses or bacteria created through the use of genetic material.