

April 30, 2020

Immunization Regulation Newsletter

[Public Health Act - Immunization Regulation](#)

Dear Health Practitioners,

Alberta's public health experts are working tirelessly with their colleagues across government and in other jurisdictions, as well as with the Public Health Agency of Canada, to monitor the COVID-19 outbreak and ensure that we are doing everything possible to protect the health of Albertans. Thank you for the various roles you are playing as part of the COVID-19 response.

As many of you know, starting January 1, 2021, the *Immunization Regulation* will require health practitioners to report immunizations and related assessments electronically to Alberta Health. However, in light of the current COVID-19 outbreak the Immunization team acknowledges that health practitioners who deliver both provincially funded and private immunization services may be stretched to capacity with other duties. This is why the Alberta Health Immunization Team is working hard to accommodate immunization service providers who are unable to meet the January 1, 2021 deadline. If your organization cannot meet the January 1, 2021 deadline, do not hesitate to reach out to Alberta Health through our team email address below.

Alberta Health has received a commitment to integrate electronic medical record (EMR) systems with Imm/ARI from McKesson, Okaki, Shoppers Drug Mart, Telus (Kroll), and Connect Care.

The Immunization Direct Submission (IDS) Pilot Group is now formed. The Immunization Direct Submission Form will facilitate the electronic submission of immunization and assessment event information into the provincial immunization repository (Imm/ARI) for health practitioners that do not have an EMR system capable of integrating with Imm/ARI. We have a diverse group of clinicians from different practice settings, and we are looking forward to the feedback and recommendations provided by the IDS pilot group.

COVID-19 Immunization Development and Production

One of the many items that Alberta Health is monitoring is the development and production of a potential COVID-19 vaccine. The clinical trials a potential vaccine must go through are robust and the safety profile of a potential vaccine is critical to establish. The best evidence to date indicates that a COVID-19 vaccine may be available in the next 12 to 18 months.

For more information regarding how health practitioners can meet the requirements set out in the *Immunization Regulation*, please refer to the documents below which can be found at the following link <https://www.alberta.ca/alberta-immunization-policy.aspx>.

For more information regarding COVID19 you can visit the Government of Alberta COVID-19 Info for Albertans webpage at the following link <https://www.alberta.ca/coronavirus-info-for-albertans.aspx>

For more about immunization, you may contact us at:
Health.Imm@gov.ab.ca

Thank you,
The Alberta Health Immunization Team

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For Health Practitioners
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