

October 13, 2020

Immunization Regulation Newsletter

[Public Health Act - Immunization Regulation](#)

Dear Health Practitioners,

Starting January 1, 2021, the *Immunization Regulation* will require health practitioners to report immunizations and related assessments electronically to Alberta Health.

Immunization Direct Submission Mechanism (IDSM)

Alberta Health developed a vendor independent single entry solution that will be available at no charge. The system is called the Immunization Direct Submission Mechanism (IDSM) and will be accessible using a standard web browser to facilitate compliance with the reporting requirements outlined in the *Immunization Regulation*. We expect to start a staggered intake for users of the IDSM beginning November 1st, 2020.

The IDSM system will not integrate with any of the systems you may currently use as part of your clinical practice. The IDSM is a tool for health practitioners to use in order to be compliant with the Regulation and may require duplicate immunization entry depending on your work flows.

- The user registration form (PDF) can be found at:
<https://www.albertanetcare.ca/learningcentre/IDSMAccess.htm>

EMR Vendor Integration

The following vendors have or are expected to have the capacity to integrate with Imm/ARI in the future; OKAKI, McKesson, Shoppers Drug Mart, Kroll (TELUS Health), and Connect Care.

Compliance with the *Immunization Regulation*

Alberta Health will continue to work with vendors and health practitioners on meeting the immunization reporting requirements and the current approach will continue to be collaborative. Fines under section 73(1) of the *Public Health Act* (PHA) have increased in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Under section 73(1) of the PHA, it is an offence to contravene the Act or regulations. The possible repercussions include a fine up to \$100,000 for a first offence and \$500,000 for a subsequent offence. The fines do apply to the reporting requirements outlined in the *Immunization Regulation*.

2020-2021 Influenza Immunization

The 2020-2021 Influenza Immunization Program will continue to be offered universally. Influenza immunization service delivery will be focused on increasing the immunization rates for high-risk populations, who are most at risk for morbidity and mortality due to influenza disease. Influenza immunization is a high priority due to the likelihood of influenza viruses co-circulating with COVID-19 and the additive effects of concurrent circulation of influenza on health care and public health system capacity.

Health practitioners who are participating in the Alberta Outreach Program can provide immunization services as soon as they receive vaccine which will be by October 13, 2020 (this is mostly in facilities such as long term care and supportive living sites). The public program will begin on October 19, 2020.

Guidance for influenza immunization during COVID and the Influenza Immunization Policy are both available through website listed below.

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

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