

# Introduction: Manitoba Immunization Program Manual

Public Health

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Date Approved: August 2013; Updated: January 2025

Applicable to: All Immunization Providers in Manitoba

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## Purpose:

To provide immunization providers in Manitoba with a resource that supports the effective and safe delivery of publicly funded vaccines to Manitobans.

## Program Overview:

Immunization has saved more lives in Canada in the last 50 years than any other health intervention. Vaccines are also important because they not only protect the people who get immunized, they also help protect those around them. The prevention of disease and transmission through the administration of vaccines improves health status while reducing or preventing the costs associated with medical interventions for communicable diseases. Cost savings are attributed to a reduction in the number of physician visits, hospitalizations and surgical procedures as well as to prevention of productivity loss due to absence(s) from school or work.

In Canada, immunization is a shared responsibility among federal, provincial and territorial governments. The National Immunization Strategy was established in 2003 and provides a framework for effective inter-jurisdictional collaboration to improve vaccination programs across Canada.

Provinces and territories continue to be responsible for the development and delivery of publicly funded immunization programs to their respective populations, including the purchase of vaccines. The majority of the vaccines used in publicly funded immunization programs in Canada are purchased through a bulk purchasing program coordinated by Public Services and Procurement Canada (PSPC).

Health Canada's Biologic and Radiopharmaceutical Drugs Directorate (BRDD) is responsible for the review, licensure and regulatory monitoring of vaccines in Canada. As vaccines are approved by Health Canada, Manitoba Health, Seniors and Long-Term Care (MHSLTC) conducts a full review of provincial epidemiology, vaccine safety, cost effectiveness, ethics and equity, and looks at the overall impact of the vaccine on disease in Manitoba. MHSLTC also gathers best-practice, evidence-informed information from current research, other provinces and territories as well as from provincial experts as constituted in Manitoba's Provincial Vaccine Advisory Committee (PVAC), and national vaccine experts from the National Advisory Committee on Immunization (NACI).

NACI is an independent committee of recognized experts that provide advice on vaccines to the Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC). After Health Canada authorizes a vaccine for sale in Canada, NACI evaluates all available scientific information about that vaccine and then makes recommendations about its optimal use.

The sources of evidence outlined above, weighed against other departmental initiatives, are considered when developing recommendations for inclusion of new vaccines, or expanded use of vaccines, as part of Manitoba's Publicly Funded Immunization Program. For a complete list of publicly-funded vaccines in Manitoba, please see *Manitoba's Immunization Program: Vaccines Offered Free-of-Charge (Eligibility Criteria for Publicly-Funded Vaccines)* at: [www.gov.mb.ca/health/publichealth/cdc/vaccineeligibility.html](http://www.gov.mb.ca/health/publichealth/cdc/vaccineeligibility.html).

### Roles and Responsibilities:

The authority for Manitoba's Publicly Funded Immunization Program is provided by the *Public Health Act*. Under this *Act*, MHS LTC establishes overall strategic direction through policies, standards and guidelines for immunization programs in Manitoba. Manitoba's regional health authorities (RHAs) and First Nations Inuit Health (FNIH) are responsible for direct service delivery including all aspects of vaccine delivery and administration, based on the program policies and guidelines identified above. For a list of RHAs and contact information, visit:

<https://www.gov.mb.ca/health/rha/finder.html>.

In Manitoba, an immunization provider is a registered or licensed health care professional who is authorized to administer vaccines under an Act of the Manitoba Legislature. This includes pharmacists, registered nurses, licensed practical nurses, registered psychiatric nurses, nurse practitioners, physician assistants and physicians. Immunizations administered in Manitoba must be recorded in Manitoba's official immunization registry (Public Health Information Management System (PHIMS)). Providers are responsible to ensure that all vaccine doses that they administer are reported so that they appear on their clients' electronic immunization record.

The standards by which immunization providers must abide are available at:  
<https://www.gov.mb.ca/health/publichealth/cdc/div/manual/docs/standards.pdf>.

If you have any questions about the Immunization Program, please email [vaccines@gov.mb.ca](mailto:vaccines@gov.mb.ca).

### References and Resources:

[National Immunization Strategy](#)

[National Advisory Committee on Immunization](#)

[Manitoba Public Health Act](#)

[Manitoba The Regulated Health Professions Act](#)

[Pharmaceutical Regulation](#)

[Immunization Regulation](#)

[Manitoba's Immunization Program: Vaccines Offered Free-of-Charge](#)

[Publicly Funded Provincial Immunization Program Standards](#)

### Other Sources:

[Canadian Immunization Guide](#)