Public Health Ontario
PARTNERS FOR HEALTH

Santé publique Ontario
PARTENAIRES POUR LA SANTÉ

ADVERSE EVENT FOLLOWING IMMUNIZATION REPORTING
FOR HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS IN ONTARIO

DO YOUR PART TO **MONITOR ADVERSE EVENTS!**

1 **Advise** patients to contact you or your team if they experience an adverse event after vaccination.

2 **Report** adverse events to your local public health unit, using Public Health Ontario's Report of Adverse Event Following Immunization Reporting Form.

3 **Contact** your local public health unit if you have any questions about AEFI reporting.

QUESTIONS & **ANSWERS**

What is an AEFI?

An adverse event following immunization (AEFI) is an unwanted or unexpected health effect that happens after someone receives a vaccine, which may or may not be caused by the vaccine.

Who should report an AEFI?

Health care providers (i.e. physicians, nurses and pharmacists) are **required** by law to report AEFIs. Reports should be made using the Ontario AEFI Reporting Form and sent to the local public health unit.

Vaccine recipients or their caregivers may also voluntarily report AEFIs to public health.

Why is it important to report an AEFI?

When you report an AEFI you provide vital information that is needed to monitor vaccine safety. This information is also used to report on vaccine safety to Ontarians, which contributes to the success of immunization programs.

What types of adverse events should be reported?

You should report any event which may be related to receipt of a vaccine, as outlined on the next page. Of particular importance are events which require medical consultation, or unusual or unexpected events. Submitting a report does not mean that the vaccine caused the event.

What does NOT need to be reported?

Some common or mild events do not need to be reported. These include:

- fever that is not accompanied by any other symptoms
- injection site reactions that last less than 4 days
- vasovagal syncope (without injury)
- events that are clearly attributed to other causes.

IF YOU ARE UNSURE WHETHER TO REPORT AN AEFI, BE **PROACTIVE** AND **REPORT** THE **EVENT**.

TYPES OF ADVERSE EVENTS TO **REPORT**

The table below lists the types of adverse events that you should report to your local public health unit. For each event there are estimated timelines between vaccination and onset of symptoms (i.e., temporal criteria). Other events not listed below can also be reported if they are clinically significant. If you are unsure, be proactive and report.

Adverse event type	Temporal criteria	
	Non-live vaccines	Live vaccines
Injection site reactions		
Pain, redness or swelling lasting 4 days or more OR extending beyond the nearest joint	0 to 48 hours	
Infected abscess	0 to 7 days	
Sterile abscess	0 to 7 days	
Nodule	0 to 7 days	
Cellulitis	0 to 7 days	
Systemic reactions		
Rash	0 to 7 days	5 to 42 days
Adenopathy/lymphadenopathy	0 to 7 days	5 to 42 days
Severe vomiting/diarrhea	0 to 72 hours	0 to 42 days
Parotitis	N/A	5 to 30 days
Hypotonic-hyporesponsive episode (HHE); under 2 years of age only	0 to 48 hours	
Persistent crying/screaming; under 2 years of age only	72 hours	
Allergic reactions		
Event managed as anaphylaxis (i.e., epinephrine administered)	0 to 24 hours	
Oculorespiratory Syndrome (ORS)	0 to 24 hours	
Allergic skin reaction (e.g., hives)	0 to 48 hours	
Neurologic events		
Convulsions/seizure	0 to 72 hours	5 to 42 days
Encephalopathy/encephalitis	0 to 15 days	5 to 42 days
Meningitis	0 to 15 days	5 to 42 days
Anaesthesia/paraesthesia	0 to 15 days	0 to 42 days
Paralysis	0 to 15 days	5 to 42 days
Myelitis/acute disseminated encephalomyelitis	0 to 15 days	5 to 30 days
Guillian Barré Syndrome (GBS)	1 to 8 weeks	
Bell's palsy	0 to 3 months	
Other events of interest		
Arthritis/arthralgia	0 to 15 days	1 to 3 days
Intussusception	N/A	0 to 42 days
Thrombocytopenia	0 to 30 days	
Syncope (fainting) with injury	0 to 30 minutes	
Other severe/unusual events	Reportable regardless of timeline	

For questions about AEFI reporting, contact your **local public health unit**.

PublicHealthOntario.ca/VaccineSafety

Ontario
Agency for Health Protection and Promotion
Agence de protection et de promotion de la santé