



Clinical Immunization Roles, Scope, and Recommended/Required Education

March 2021

Interpretation Guide/ Definitions:

- **Role** - immunization activities are grouped into four main clinical roles as follows:
 - 1. Patient Assessment**
 - Determine suitability for those with complex medical conditions.
 - Obtain consent as per the [COVID-19 Vaccine Screening Checklist](#)
 - 2. Vaccine Preparation**
 - Reconstitute and draw doses from vial.
 - 3. Immunizer**
 - Vaccinate patient and complete documentation.
 - Direct patient to post-vaccine waiting area.
 - 4. Monitor Patient Post-Vaccine Waiting Area/ First Aid Attendant**
 - Monitor for adverse event (e.g., anaphylaxis).
 - Assess situation and treat adverse event.
- **Under Supervision** - indicates the roles/activities that must be performed by the regulated health professional under the regulatory supervision of another regulated health professional (i.e., each health profession's regulation specifies which regulated health professionals can delegate to and/or authorize under supervision the professional) to perform the specific restricted activities laid out in their regulation. The regulated health professional's regulatory college can detail supervision requirements for a profession in the performance of those activities.
 - Medical and pharmacy students are enabled through their regulatory colleges' Standards, Limits and Conditions of practice documents to provide immunization services.
 - Requirements for other students are set out in the provincial health order.
- **PHO Order** - an order made by the Provincial Health Officer during a provincial state of emergency, which specifies the requirements (e.g., competency, training, supervision) that must be satisfied for a health profession (or a student of that profession) or other occupation to perform an activity (see [PHO COVID-19 Orders](#)).
 - A regulated health professional who is authorized in their professional regulation to immunize must supervise unregulated health providers and non-health professionals.
- **Recommended Education** - indicates the recommended immunization-specific and on-site training that a regulated health care professional should take prior to performing activities of the clinical immunization roles.
- **Required Education** - indicates the immunization-specific and on-site training that is required as per the PHO Order for any group of individuals (health care professionals and/or other occupations) who will be participating in one of the four clinical roles.





Additional Information:

- Compensation for both training and immunizing will be provided and align with applicable rates as outlined in collective agreements and employment relationships for excluded professionals. Individuals will be compensated for their time to complete the training after they are hired/contracted.
- For professionals and individuals who are not registered with a regulatory college (retired), it is recommended that a criminal record check, verification of previous health professional training, previous registration (good standing) status with a regulatory college, and assessment of competencies per the [BCCDC COVID-19 Immunization Skills Checklist](#) are completed by the employer.
- For those health professions and occupations with [PHO ORDERS](#) in place, please review the relevant order(s) in addition to the guidance in this document. The PHO Order will take precedent over any other guidance (in the case of a discrepancy).
- The **minimum** education requirements are listed below. It is expected that all health professionals and occupations practice according to their individual competence and seek out additional education as needed.
- It is required that all those involved in immunization activities listed below have their applicable competencies reviewed as per the [BCCDC COVID-19 Immunization Skills Checklist](#) by the immunization employer or the regional Medical Health Officer (with the exception of Physicians and NPs). For those immunization providers who have already taken C1 and have had their skills reviewed, confirmation of competencies using the BCCDC COVID-19 Immunization Skills Checklist is not required.
- The Community Paramedicine program is staffed by Primary Care Paramedics and Advanced Care Paramedic, both of which are enabled temporarily, through a PHO Order, to perform COVID-19 immunization roles/activities under supervision.
- Refer to the [BC Immunization Manual](#) for best practice guidelines to direct the provision of immunization services, with a particular focus on [Part 3 - Management of Anaphylaxis in a Non-Hospital Setting](#) and the COVID-19 vaccine specific resources contained in [Part 4: Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine](#), [Moderna COVID-19 Vaccine](#), [COVID-19 Vaccine ChAdOx1-S \[recombinant\] \(AstraZeneca/Verity Pharmaceuticals\)](#), [COVID-19 Vaccine Screening Checklist](#), [COVID-19 Vaccines HealthLink BC File #124](#), and [COVID-19 Vaccine After Care Sheet](#).
- Any individual handling dry ice as part of their immunization role must take the [Dry Ice Handling Safety Training Course](#) (listed as F in the **Immunization Training Modules** table below).

The following occupations have been identified as priorities for clinical roles within the mass vaccination strategy:

Regulated health professionals who have the authorization to perform the roles/activities independently AND can immunize without a PHO Order:

Profession	Role	Recommended Education
Family Physicians (Includes those holding Temporary Emergency Registration and Residents)	Patient assessment, vaccine preparation, immunizer, and monitor patient in post-vaccine waiting area	D



Nurse Practitioners (NP)	Patient assessment, vaccine preparation, immunizer, and monitor patient in post-vaccine waiting area	D
Registered Nurses (RN) ¹ (Includes those holding Temporary Emergency Registration)	Patient assessment, vaccine preparation, immunizer, and monitor patient in post-vaccine waiting area	C2, E
Registered Psychiatric Nurses (RPN) ² (Includes those holding Temporary Emergency Registration)	Patient assessment, vaccine preparation, immunizer, and monitor patient in post-vaccine waiting area	C2, E
Licensed Practical Nurses (LPN) ³ (Includes those holding Temporary Emergency Registration)	Patient assessment (limited to stable or predictable patients), vaccine preparation, immunizer, and monitor patient in post-vaccine waiting area	C2, E
Pharmacists ⁴ (Vaccine Certified)	Patient assessment, vaccine preparation, immunizer, and monitor patient in post-vaccine waiting area	D
Naturopaths ⁵ (Vaccine Certified)	Patient assessment, vaccine preparation, immunizer, and monitor patient in post-vaccine waiting area	D

Students⁶ who can perform some/all immunizing roles without a PHO Order:

Profession	Role	Under Supervision	PHO Order Required	Required Education
Medical Students (UGME)	Patient assessment, vaccine preparation, immunizer, and monitor patient in post-vaccine waiting area	Yes	No	D, E
Pharmacy Students (Vaccine Certified)	Patient assessment, vaccine preparation, immunizer, and monitor patient in post-vaccine waiting area	Yes	No	D

¹ If have already taken C1, then only D is recommended.

² If have already taken C1, then only D is recommended.

³ If have already taken C1, then only D is recommended.

⁴ Pharmacists who are not vaccine certified by the College of Pharmacists of BC are required to take C1 and be certified before administering immunizations.

⁵ Naturopaths who are not vaccine certified by the College of Naturopathic Physicians of BC are required to take C1 and be certified before administering immunizations.

⁶ All students must have completed the requisite foundational knowledge obtained in their educational program related to intramuscular injections, immunization basics, and medication principles to participate in clinical roles in the vaccination clinics.



All regulated and unregulated health professionals and/or other occupations listed in the tables which follow are authorized to participate in the immunization roles specified, under the relevant PHO order which specifies the type of activity able to be performed, the type of supervision required, and the education required prior to performing any immunization activity. Please refer to the most recent [PHO Orders](#).

Regulated health professionals who can perform some/all immunizing roles AND require a [PHO ORDER](#)

Profession	Role	Under Supervision	PHO Order Required	Required Education
Dentist	Patient assessment, vaccine preparation, immunizer, and monitor patient in post-vaccine waiting area	No	Yes	C1, D
Midwife	Patient assessment, vaccine preparation, immunizer, and monitor patient in post-vaccine waiting area	No	Yes	C2, E
Podiatrist	Vaccine preparation, immunizer, and monitor patient in post-vaccine waiting area	Yes	Yes	C1, D
Dental Hygienist	Vaccine preparation, immunizer, and monitor patient in post-vaccine waiting area	Yes	Yes	B, C1, D
Dental Therapist	Vaccine preparation, immunizer, and monitor patient in post-vaccine waiting area	Yes	Yes	B, C1, D
Pharmacy Technician	Vaccine preparation	No	Yes	B (portions relevant to preparation of vaccines only), D

Paramedics, Emergency Medical Responders and Emergency Medical Assistants First Responders who can perform some/all immunizing roles AND require a [PHO ORDER](#)

Profession	Role	Under Supervision	PHO Order Required	Required Education
Critical Care Paramedic, Advanced Care Paramedic, Primary Care Paramedic (includes community paramedics)	Patient assessment, vaccine preparation, immunizer, and monitor patient in post-vaccine waiting area	Yes	Yes	C1, D
Emergency Medical Responder, EMA First Responder (Firefighter)	Immunizer	Yes	Yes	B, C1, D



Unregulated health care professionals who can perform some/all immunizing roles AND require a [PHO ORDER](#)

Profession	Role	Under Supervision	PHO Order Required	Required Education
Anesthesia Assistant	Vaccine preparation, immunizer, and monitor patient in post-vaccine waiting area	Yes	Yes	B, C1, D
Medical Laboratory Technologist/Assistant	Immunizer	Yes	Yes	B, C1, D
International Medical Graduate (not registered with the College of Physicians and Surgeons of British Columbia) who meet the following criteria: Must have: a. a medical degree from a medical school outside of Canada listed in the World Directory of Medical Schools , which includes a sponsor note indicating it is an accepted medical school in Canada, b. a medical degree that has been verified by physicianapply.ca , and evidence of passing the MCCQE I c. proof of British Columbia residence	Vaccine preparation, immunizer, and monitor patient in post-vaccine waiting area	Yes	Yes	B, C1, D
Retired Nurse Practitioner, Retired Registered Nurse, Retired Registered Psychiatric Nurse (not registered with BCCNM; previously registered in Canada)	Patient assessment, vaccine preparation, immunizer, and monitor patient in post-vaccine waiting area	Yes	Yes	B, C2, E
Retired Licensed Practical Nurse	Patient assessment (limited to stable and predictable patients), vaccine preparation, immunizer, and monitor	Yes	Yes	B, C2, E



(not registered with BCCNM; previously registered in Canada)	patient in post-vaccine waiting area			
Retired Midwife (not registered with BCCNM, previously registered in Canada)	Patient assessment, vaccine preparation, immunizer, and monitor patient in post-vaccine waiting area	Yes	Yes	B, C2, E
Retired medical practitioner (not registered with the CPSBC; previously registered in Canada)	Patient assessment, vaccine preparation, immunizer, and monitor in post-vaccine waiting area	Yes	Yes	B, D, E

Students⁷ who can perform some/all immunizing roles AND require a [PHO ORDER](#)

Profession	Role	Under Supervision	PHO Order Required	Required Education
Employed Student Nurse (ESN), Employed Student Psychiatric Nurse (ESPN) ⁸	Patient assessment, vaccine preparation, immunizer, and monitor patient in post-vaccine waiting area	Yes, by NP/RN/RPN	Yes	C2, E
Student enrolled in Registered Nursing program, Registered Psychiatric Nursing program	Patient assessment, vaccine preparation, immunizer, and monitor patient in post-vaccine waiting area	Yes, by NP/RN/RPN	Yes	C2, E
Student enrolled in Licensed Practical Nursing program	Patient assessment (limited stable and predictable clients), vaccine preparation, immunizer, and monitor patient in post-vaccine waiting area	Yes, by NP/RN/RPN/LPN	Yes	C2, E
Student enrolled in midwifery program	Patient assessment, vaccine preparation, immunizer, and monitor patient in post-vaccine waiting area	Yes	Yes	C2, E

⁷ All students must have completed the requisite foundational knowledge obtained in their educational program related to intramuscular injections, immunization basics and medication principles to participate in a clinical role in the vaccination clinics.

⁸ For the purposes of COVID-19 immunization only, ESN and ESPNs may learn new skills while in this role.



Immunization Training Modules

IMMUNIZATION SPECIFIC (The majority of this training is on the PHSA Learning Hub) ⁹				
	Training	Topic	Resources	Approximate Time
IM Injection	A	Intramuscular Training- Theory	This training is included in C1 Course content equivalent to: https://elsevier.health/en-US/preview/intramuscular-injections	N/A
	B	Intramuscular Training - In Person	In-person education and training to perform intramuscular injections per the BCCDC COVID-19 Immunization Skills Checklist	60 min
Immunization	C1	Immunizing	BCCDC Immunization Competency Course (C1- includes A, E, G, H)	15 hours
	C2	Immunizing	BCCDC COVID-19 Immunization Competency Course for Nurses (RNs, RPNs, LPNs)¹⁰ (C2- includes a condensed version of D, G, H specific only to COVID-19 vaccines only)	2 hours
	D	COVID -19 Vaccine Specific Information	BCCDC COVID-19 Immunization Webinars	60 min
	E	Anaphylaxis	Anaphylaxis Initial Emergency Treatment by Nurses (Adult & Pediatric)	45 min
Vaccine Preparation	F	Dry Ice Training (for staff handling dry ice)	Dry Ice Handling Safety Training	20 min
	G	Vaccine Storage and Handling	This training is included in C1 and C2	N/A
	H	Immunization Communication	This training is included in C1 and C2	N/A

March 16, 2021
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⁹ This resource is open access, but you need to register for an account prior to accessing the course.

¹⁰ This course will also be accessed by Midwives on an interim basis until a specific course is developed.

