



Adverse Event Following Immunization (AEFI) Reporting

In Ontario, health care professionals are required by law to report AEFIs to their local public health unit within seven days of becoming aware of a reportable event.

Reporting an AEFI

If a client discloses a previous AEFI, collect the following information:

- 1) **Symptoms:** signs, symptoms or diagnoses made
- 2) **Onset:** time to onset of symptoms following vaccination (minutes, hours or days)
- 3) **Duration:** how long symptoms lasted before resolving (minutes, hours or days)
- 4) **Treatments:** any at home treatments used by the client or prescribed by a health care provider
- 5) **Vaccine:** vaccine name, lot number and expiry date and administration date if known

Determine if client's description meets one of Ontario's AEFI reporting criteria by using the [AEFI Reporting Resource for Health Care Providers](#). A causal relationship between immunization and the event that follows does not need to be proven. **If in doubt, still report the AEFI.**

Complete the Public Health Ontario Report of [Adverse event following immunization \(AEFI\) report form](#) and fax it to Durham Region Health Department (DRHD) at 905-666-6214.

Advise the client that an AEFI investigation must be completed by DRHD prior to future immunizations. The client will be contacted by a DRHD nurse to obtain more details about the AEFI.

Reviewing AEFI Recommendations

The Associate Medical Officer of Health (AMOH) and/or Medical Officer of Health (MOH) reviews each AEFI and creates recommendations for future immunizations. Common recommendations may include:

- **No change to immunization schedule** - Client may proceed with routine immunizations.
- **Expert referral** - Clients may be recommended to have a specialist assessment (i.e. allergist, immunologist) prior to future immunizations. Primary care providers are responsible for referring the client to the recommended specialist. A copy of the expert recommendations must be provided to DRHD once the referral is completed so that the AMOH/MOH can update their AEFI recommendations for the client.

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Additional Resources

Please visit the [Immunization, Vaccines and AEFIs](#) under the *Tools and guidance documents* section on durham.ca/hcp for more information on AEFI reporting.

[Adverse event following immunization \(AEFI\) report form](#)

[Adverse Event Following Immunization for Health Care Providers in Ontario](#)

[Appendix 1: Provincial Case Definitions for Diseases of Public Health Significance Disease: Adverse Events Following Immunization \(Updated October 2023\)](#)

[Adverse Events of Special Interest \(AESI\) for COVID-19 Vaccines Surveillance](#)

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905-668-2020 or 1-800-841-2729 | durham.ca/health

If you require this information in an accessible format, contact 1-800-841-2729.

