COVID-19 Vaccine

Active Surveillance and Reporting of Adverse Events Following Immunization (AEFI)

Revised: February 4, 2021

This policy is evergreen and will be updated as new information becomes available.

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I. Introduction

The monitoring of adverse events following immunization (AEFI) involving vaccines and biologicals administered in Alberta is an important evaluation component of the provincial immunization program. AEFI reporting and monitoring is also a key contributor to public confidence in vaccine programs; is critical to vaccine safety surveillance; is used to confirm results of pre-licensure clinical trials; and provides a process to identify previously unknown concerns for each product.

Alberta has a robust passive AEFI surveillance system. In the context of COVID-19 vaccine introduction, as these are new vaccines based on new technology, it is essential to establish an active surveillance system to supplement the routine passive reporting system. Active surveillance will ensure information on AEFIs are collected rapidly and safety signals are detected and responded to early. It also enables enhanced monitoring of pre-specified adverse events of special interest (AESIs) for COVID-19 vaccines in the context of overall AEFI surveillance.

This document has been developed specifically for COVID-19 vaccine AEFI active surveillance. Active AEFI surveillance for COVID-19 vaccine in Alberta involves a collaboration between Alberta Health, Alberta Health Services Provincial AEFI Team, and the Canadian National Vaccine Safety Network (CANVAS).

For AEFI reporting guidance in Alberta see Adverse Events Following Immunization (AEFI) Policy for Alberta Immunization Providers.

II. Legislative Authority

The AEFI Policy for Alberta Immunization Providers is provided under the authority of the Public Health Act (Act) and Part 2 of the Immunization Regulation which outlines the requirements for the reporting of adverse events following immunization.
III. Reporting to Alberta Health Services (AHS)

When to report to Alberta Health Services

Health practitioners are to report an adverse event following immunization to AHS within 3 days of determining or being informed that a patient has experienced an adverse event following immunization unless it has already been reported.

What to report to Alberta Health Services

Any “adverse event following immunization” defined as an unfavourable health occurrence experienced by a patient that:
   a) follows immunization,
   b) cannot be attributed to a pre-existing condition, and
   c) meets one or more of the following criteria, as determined by a health practitioner:
      i. the health occurrence is life threatening, could result in permanent disability, requires hospitalization or urgent medical attention, or for any other reason is considered to be of a serious nature;
      ii. the health occurrence is unusual or unexpected, including, without limitation, an occurrence that
         A. has not previously been identified, or
         B. has previously been identified but is being reported at increased frequency;
      iii. the health occurrence cannot be explained by anything in the patient’s medical history, including, without limitation, a recent disease or illness, or consumption of medication.

If unsure or if there are questions contact AHS.

Data elements

The following data elements must be reported in respect of the adverse event following immunization:

   a) patient first name and last name;
   b) patient personal health number or unique lifetime identifier;
   c) patient date of birth;
   d) patient sex at birth;
   e) description of the adverse event, including, without limitation, any applicable symptom or diagnosis listed in the Immunization Regulation Schedule as reported by the patient or observed or diagnosed by the health practitioner, as the case may be, and the onset and duration of the adverse event;
   f) vaccine code of the vaccine used in the immunization preceding the adverse event following immunization, if available;
   g) lot number of the vaccine used in the immunization preceding the adverse event following immunization, if available;
   h) manufacturer of the vaccine used in the immunization preceding the adverse event following immunization, if available;
   i) date of the immunization preceding the adverse event following immunization;
   j) delivery management site code for the immunization preceding the adverse event following immunization, if available;
   k) first name, last name and telephone number of the person reporting.

How to report an adverse event following immunization

The health practitioner shall ensure that the adverse event following immunization is reported to the AHS Provincial AEFI Reporting Line at 1-855-444-2324 (1-855-444-CDCI) or online see Alberta Health Services information on how to report an adverse event following immunization for information.
IV. Active AEFI Surveillance following COVID-19 Immunization

4.1 Population
The population that will be asked to enroll in the active AEFI surveillance program are those individuals eligible for receipt of the COVID-19 vaccine.

4.2 Active Surveillance Survey Timing

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>AHS Provincial AEFI Team</th>
<th>CANVAS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Two dose schedule</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8 days after dose 1</td>
<td>8 days after dose 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8 days after dose 2</td>
<td>8 days after dose 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 month post-immunization</td>
<td>6 month post-immunization</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>One dose schedule</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8 days</td>
<td>8 days</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28 days</td>
<td>28 days</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 months post-immunization</td>
<td>6 months post-immunization</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

4.3 Participant recruitment and Consent

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Phase 0 (Early Phase 1)</th>
<th>AHS Provincial AEFI Team</th>
<th>CANVAS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>HCWs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Recruitment to be done at time of immunization</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Planning to have ability to recruit online when immunization appointment is made (end of January 2021).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Every vaccine recipient eligible to take part of active surveillance.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Require consent of the vaccine recipient to send information</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Participants will be provided a brief description of what to expect on follow-up.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>See CANVAS protocol.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Phase 1</th>
<th>Congregate Care/Supportive Living Residents</th>
<th>CANVAS is the lead on active surveillance</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Phase 2</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>CANVAS is the lead on active surveillance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phase 3</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>CANVAS is the lead on active surveillance</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

PHAC/CANVAS goal – 50,000 individuals per province per vaccine
4.4 Participant follow-up

At follow-up, a standard AEFI questionnaire (see below 4.6), developed by PHAC and the Vaccine Vigilance Working Group (VVWG), will be used by all jurisdictions to ensure standard common data elements are collected.

**AHS PROVINCIAL AEFI TEAM** this process under development

**CANVAS**
See CANVAS documents and study protocol.

Reportable AEFIs and AESIs must also be reported using the current reporting process outlined above (III Reporting to Alberta Health Services (AHS) and in the AEFI Policy for Alberta Immunization Providers.

4.5 Data Elements

PHAC and the VVWG will identify standard data elements to be collected at follow-up. The **follow-up questionnaire** for self-reporting by participants will include the following data elements:

- Unique identifier
- Demographics (age, sex, occupation, race/ethnicity)
- Health Card number
- Adverse events experienced including time to onset and duration of event
- Level of care obtained
- Absenteeism from work/school or prevented daily activities
- Treatment received
- Outcome of events
4.6 Standard Questionnaire for Active Surveillance

1. Data elements are listed above. Below are individual questions to collect the data.

2. If female and 15-49 years old.
   a. Are you currently pregnant?
      • If Yes what trimester are you in?
        o 1st (0-14 weeks)
        o 2nd (15-28 weeks)
        o 3rd (29-42 weeks)
   b. Have you experienced a birth, stillbirth, or miscarriage in the last 7 days?
      • If Yes, what trimester were you in?
        o 1st (0-14 weeks)
        o 2nd (15-28 weeks)
        o 3rd (29-42 weeks)

3. In the first week (7 days) after your COVID vaccine did you develop a new health problem or did an existing health problem get worse?
   • If Yes
     o Was this health problem severe enough to prevent/stop normal activities?
     o Was this health problem severe enough to miss work/school?
     o Did you see a health care provider for this health problem?
       i. If Yes, what type of medical visit did you have? (check all that apply)
          ▪ Clinic/family physician (telephone or in-person)
          ▪ Emergency room
          ▪ Hospitalization
          ▪ COVID-19 Testing
          ▪ Other: ____________________ e.g. Physiotherapist, chiropractor
       ii. Did the health care provider give you a diagnosis?
           If Yes, specify the diagnosis: _________________________

4. [If Yes to 3.]: How long after the vaccine did your health problem start or your existing health problem get worse?
   • Within the first hour (60 minutes) after my COVID vaccine
   • Within the first day (2 to 24 hours) after my COVID vaccine
   • 2-3 days after my COVID vaccine
   • 4-5 days after my COVID vaccine
   • 6-7 days after my COVID vaccine
   • 8 or more days after my COVID vaccine

5. [If Yes to 3.]: How long did your health problem last?
   • Lasted less than one hour (60 minutes)
   • Lasted 1 to 10 hours
   • Lasted one day (11-24 hours)
   • Lasted 2-3 days
   • Lasted 4-5 days
   • Lasted 6 or more days
   • It is still present: [If Yes], has your health problem improved, stayed the same, or worsened?
6. [If Yes to 3.]: Please check all the symptoms you experienced as part of your health problem. We are interested in the symptoms that started in the first week (7 days) after your COVID vaccine. This does not mean these are common symptoms of the COVID vaccine (check all that apply):

- Any of the following: Feeling unwell, tiredness, weakness, muscle aches, fatigue, or chills.
- Any of the following: Nausea, Vomiting, Diarrhea, or Stomach pain
- Fever (temperature at least 38.0°C or higher)
- Headache or migraine
- Arthritis/joint pain/stiffness
- Inability to walk
- Loss of taste/smell
- Loss of vision
- Hoarseness (raspy or strained voice; “frog in throat”)
- Sore throat
- Chest tightness/discomfort/pain/angina
- Difficulty breathing/shortness of breath without throat/tongue swelling
- Wheezing
- Cough
- Runny nose
- Nasal congestion/stuffed nose/sinus congestion
- Swelling of the throat and/or tongue with difficulty breathing or swallowing
- Swelling of a part of your face or lips (excluding eyelids)
- Swelling of the eyelid(s)
- Redness of both eyes
- Painful eyes
- Itchy eyes

[If Yes to 3.] and If pregnant:
- Stillbirth or miscarriage
- Preterm labour (regular contractions starting before 37 weeks gestation (>3 weeks before your due date))
- Preterm birth (delivery of infant before 37 weeks gestation (>3 weeks before your due date))
- High blood pressure
- [if yes to above] eclampsia/preeclampsia
- Vaginal spotting or vaginal bleeding
- Abnormal fetal heart rate (heart rate that is too fast or too slow)
- Other complication of pregnancy (specify: ________________________)

7. [If Yes to 3.] Did you experience any of the following:

- Redness, pain or swelling at the injection site
- Redness, pain or swelling above the shoulder or below the elbow in the immunized arm

8. [If Yes to 3.]: If you had more than one symptom that started in the first 7 days after your vaccine what was the most severe symptom?
V. AEFI versus AESI (Adverse Events of Special Interest)

AEFI

Any untoward medical occurrence which follows immunization, and which does not necessarily have a causal relationship with the usage of the vaccine. The adverse event may be any unfavourable or unintended sign, abnormal laboratory finding, symptom or disease.

Ref: https://www.who.int/vaccine_safety/committee/Module_AESI.pdf?ua=1

AESI in the context of COVID-19

A pre-identified and predefined event that has the potential to be causally associated with a vaccine product that needs to be carefully monitored and confirmed by further special studies. The AESI descriptions and definitions provided in this document are for passive reporting. This list of AESIs will also be assessed through CANVAS or special studies and the timeframe for monitoring may be longer.

The AESIs defined for COVID-19 vaccines are described in Section VII.

Not currently reportable in Alberta:
- vaccine-associated enhanced disease
- multisystem inflammatory syndrome in children
- acute respiratory distress syndrome
- acute cardiovascular injury
- coagulation disorder
- acute kidney injury
- acute liver injury
- anosmia/ageusia
- chilblain – like lesions
- single organ cutaneous vasculitis
- acute aseptic arthritis
- meningoencephalitis

Currently reportable in Alberta:
- convulsions
- GBS
- erythema multiforme
- anaphylaxis
- ADEM
- thrombocytopenia

AESIs which are not currently reportable will be reported under the “AESI” category – include in comments the designated AESI.

Ref: https://www.who.int/vaccine_safety/committee/Module_AESI.pdf?ua=1
VI. Adverse Events of Special Interest Following COVID-19 Immunization

The designated AESIs are:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>AESI</th>
<th>Currently reportable in Alberta</th>
<th>Brighton Collaboration case definition link</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>“VAED” Vaccine-associated enhanced disease</td>
<td></td>
<td><a href="https://brightoncollaboration.us/vaed/">https://brightoncollaboration.us/vaed/</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>“MISC” Multisystem inflammatory syndrome in children</td>
<td></td>
<td>Targeted for Oct 15, 2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>“ARDS” Acute respiratory distress syndrome</td>
<td></td>
<td>Targeted for Oct 15, 2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>“Acute cardiovascular injury” (microangiopathy, heart failure, stress cardiomyopathy, coronary artery disease arrhythmia, myocarditis)</td>
<td></td>
<td>Targeted for Nov 15, 2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>“Coagulation disorder” (thromboembolism, haemorrhage)</td>
<td></td>
<td>Targeted for Nov 15, 2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>“Acute kidney injury”</td>
<td></td>
<td>Targeted completion by Nov</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>“GBS” Guillain Barré Syndrome</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td><a href="https://doi.org/10.1016/j.vaccine.2010.06.003">10.1016/j.vaccine.2010.06.003</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>“Acute liver injury”</td>
<td></td>
<td>Targeted completion by Nov</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>“Anosmia”, “ageusia”</td>
<td></td>
<td>Targeted completion by Nov</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>“Chilblain – like lesions”</td>
<td></td>
<td>Targeted completion by Apr 2021</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>“Erythema multiforme”</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>“Anaphylaxis”</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td><a href="https://doi.org/10.1016/j.vaccine.2007.02.064">10.1016/j.vaccine.2007.02.064</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>“Acute aseptic arthritis”</td>
<td></td>
<td><a href="https://doi.org/10.1016/j.vaccine.2017.08.087">10.1016/j.vaccine.2017.08.087</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>“Meningoencephalitis”</td>
<td></td>
<td><a href="https://doi.org/10.1016/j.vaccine.2007.04.060">10.1016/j.vaccine.2007.04.060</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>“ADEM” Acute disseminated encephalomyelitis</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td><a href="https://doi.org/10.1016/j.vaccine.2007.04.060">10.1016/j.vaccine.2007.04.060</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>“Thrombocytopenia”</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td><a href="https://doi.org/10.1016/j.vaccine.2007.02.067">10.1016/j.vaccine.2007.02.067</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

[https://www.who.int/vaccine_safety/committee/Module_AESI.pdf?ua=1](https://www.who.int/vaccine_safety/committee/Module_AESI.pdf?ua=1)
AESI Reporting Criteria

These criteria are under development and will be updated as new information becomes available

### Vaccine-associated enhanced disease

**Definition:** Vaccine-associated enhanced disease (VAED) is an illness that occurs in persons who receive a vaccine and who are subsequently infected with the pathogen that the vaccine is meant to protect against.

**Reportable if:** Onset within 42 days of COVID immunization:

1. Physician-diagnosed VAED

   AND

2. Vaccine recipient develops laboratory confirmed (by RT-PCR performed by APL) COVID-19 infection after receiving a COVID-19 vaccine dose

   AND

3. Has severe and/or modified/unusual clinical symptoms compatible with COVID-19 infection as determined by the attending physician

   AND/OR

4. Hospitalized

   AND/OR

5. Has evidence of immunopathology in target organs as determined by the histopathologist

**Note:**
- Regardless of results of validated serological test for COVID-19 prior to receiving vaccine

See: Vaccine-associated Enhanced Disease: Case Definition and Guidelines for Data Collection, Analysis, and Presentation of Immunization Safety Data. 2020, October 19. [https://brightoncollaboration.us/vaed/](https://brightoncollaboration.us/vaed/)

### MIS-C - Multisystem inflammatory syndrome in children

**Definition:** Multisystem inflammatory syndrome in children (MIS-C) is a condition where different body parts can become inflamed, including the heart, lungs, kidneys, brain, skin, eyes, or gastrointestinal organs

**Reportable if:** Onset within 42 days of COVID-19 immunization:

1. Physician-diagnosed MIS-C

   AND

2. Vaccine recipients (typically aged 0-19 years old) develops fever lasting 3 days or longer

   AND

3. Other signs/symptoms or abnormal test results involving at least two of the following
   - Rash or bilateral non-purulent conjunctivitis or muco-cutaneous inflammation signs
   - Hypotension or shock
   - Features of myocardial dysfunction, or pericarditis, or valvulitis, or coronary abnormalities
   - Evidence of coagulopathy (abnormal PT, PTT, elevated d-Dimers)
   - Acute gastrointestinal problems (diarrhea, vomiting or abdominal pain)


   AND

4. Elevated inflammatory markers (e.g., ESR, CRP, procalcitonin)

   AND

5. No etiological or infectious cause identified to explain this presentation
**Acute respiratory distress syndrome**

**Definition:** Acute respiratory distress syndrome (ARDS) is defined as an acute disorder which is characterized by bilateral lung infiltrates and severe progressive hypoxemia not fully explained by cardiogenic pulmonary edema.

**Reportable if:** Onset within 7 days of immunization:

1. Physician-diagnosed ARDS
   AND
2. Vaccine recipient develops dyspnea, hypoxemia and/or altered mental status, which progressively worsens within hours to days
   AND
3. Characterized by bilateral lung infiltrates on chest radiography or CT of a non-cardiac origin, and a \(\text{PaO}_2/\text{FiO}_2\) ratio of less than 300 mmHg with a minimum of 5 cm H\(_2\)O PEEP (or CPAP)
   AND
4. There is no pre-existing or known acute medical condition which may explain this presentation

**Acute cardiovascular injury**

**Definition:** Acute cardiovascular injury (ACI) is an acute disorder which may manifest clinically either as microangiopathy, heart ischemia, myocarditis, pericarditis, cardiomyopathy, arrhythmia, heart failure, cardiogenic shock, stroke and/or thromboembolic events usually associated with abnormalities on ECG, echocardiography or cardiac MRI and elevated biochemical markers.

**Reportable if:** Onset within 7 days of immunization:

1. Physician-diagnosed Acute cardiovascular injury
   AND
2. Vaccine recipient develops a new-onset clinical symptom(s) compatible with acute cardiovascular illness/event (e.g., shortness of breath, chest pain, tachycardia, hypotension, headache, visual disturbances, motor/sensory/balance abnormalities)
   OR
3. Has newly detected abnormalities on ECG (e.g., ST elevation, arrhythmia) or echocardiography or cardiac MRI
   OR
4. Has at least one cardiac troponin (cTn) or creatinine kinase-MB concentration that is above the 99th percentile upper reference limit regardless of symptoms
   AND
5. No alternative cause for diagnosis was identified
Coagulation disorder

**Definition:** Coagulation disorder is an abnormality of hemostasis cascade leading to either excessive bleeding or the increased risk of thrombosis.

**Reportable if:** Onset within 7 days of COVID immunization:

1. Physician diagnosed coagulation disorder
   **AND**
2. Vaccine recipient develops a new-onset clinical symptom(s) compatible with thrombotic event or bleeding (e.g., organ bleeding, stroke, deep vein thrombosis, pulmonary embolism)
   **OR**
3. Has newly detected elevations in fibrinogen and D-dimer levels and/or prolongation of PT/aPTT regardless of platelet count
   **AND/OR**
4. Evidence of thrombotic event or bleeding detected ultrasonography or other imaging modality
   **AND**
5. No alternative cause for diagnosis was identified

Acute kidney injury

**Definition:** Acute kidney injury (AKI) is a sudden episode of kidney failure or kidney damage which causes a build-up of waste products in the blood and may lead to alterations in fluid, electrolyte, acid-base and hormonal regulation.

**Reportable if:** Onset within 7 days of COVID immunization:

1. Physician diagnosed acute kidney injury;
   **AND**
2. Has developed elevated serum creatinine and/or reduced urinary output
   **AND**
3. There is no pre-existing condition or concurrent administration of medications which may explain this presentation

Acute liver injury

**Definition:** Acute liver injury is an illness of variable severity that occurs in persons who develops clinical symptoms of hepatotoxicity and/or laboratory evidence of elevated liver enzymes and/or altered liver function

**Reportable if:** Onset within 7 days of COVID immunization:

1. Physician diagnosed acute liver injury;
   **AND**
2. Vaccine recipient develops a new-onset clinical symptom(s) of hepatotoxicity
   **AND/OR**
3. Has developed elevated liver enzymes
   **AND**
4. There is no pre-existing condition or concurrent administration of other medications which may explain this presentation
Anosmia, Ageusia

**Definition:** Anosmia/ageusia is a condition characterized by subjective loss or alteration of sense of smell or taste.

**Reportable if:** Onset within 7 days of COVID immunization:
1. Vaccine recipient develops a subjective loss or alteration of sense of smell or taste
   AND
2. It persists for at least 24 hours
   AND
3. It is not associated with trauma, respiratory infections such as influenza or previously diagnosed medical condition manifesting as anosmia or ageusia

Note: Reporting does not require confirmation by physician

Chilblain – like lesions

**Definition:** Chilblains are the inflammation of small blood vessels in the skin that occur in response to repeated exposure to cold temperatures. Lesions resembling chilblain may be seen on toes, fingers, feet, or hands.

**Reportable if:** Onset within 7 days of COVID immunization:
1. Vaccine recipient develops lesions resembling chilblain (usually on toes and fingers)
   AND
2. One or more of the following symptoms/signs
   - Discoloration
   - Blisters
   - Swelling
   - Pain
   - Pruritis
   AND
3. Lesions persist for at least 24 hours
   AND
4. The appearance of lesions is not precipitated by exposure to cold

Note: Reporting does not require confirmation by physician
**Single organ cutaneous vasculitis**

**Definition:** Single organ cutaneous vasculitis (SOCV) is a syndrome characterized by clinical and histological features of small vessel vasculitis of the skin without involvement of other organ systems.

**Reportable if:** Onset within 7 days of COVID immunization:

1. Physician diagnosed single organ cutaneous vasculitis
   AND
2. Vaccine recipient has developed a new-onset cutaneous lesions including
   - Hemorrhagic papules
   OR
   - Urticaria-like lesions (hives)
   OR
   - Purpuric rash involving face or extremities AND edema AND low-grade fever
   OR
3. Confirmed by histology.
   AND
4. Exclusion of other organ or systemic involvement

See: Single organ cutaneous vasculitis: Case definition & guidelines for data collection, analysis, and presentation of immunization safety data. 2016 December 12. 10.1016/j.vaccine.2016.09.032

**Acute aseptic arthritis**

**Definition:** Acute aseptic arthritis is a clinical syndrome characterized by acute onset of signs and symptoms of joint inflammation, increased white blood count (WBC) in synovial fluid and the absence of an identifiable causative organism

**Reportable if:** Onset within 7 days of COVID immunization:

1. Physician or health care provider assessed septic arthritis
   AND
2. Without history of recent trauma
   AND
3. Develops one of the following
   - Joint or surrounding tissue swelling
   OR
   - Joint effusion
   OR
   - Joint and/or surrounding tissues erythema
   OR
   - Increased warmth palpable over the joint
   OR
   - Restricted range of movements in a joint
   AND
4. The above findings are present for less than 6 weeks.

**Notes:**
- Analysis of synovial fluid may or may not be performed
- One or more joints may be involved

See: Acute aseptic arthritis: Case definition & guidelines for data collection, analysis, and presentation of immunisation safety data. 2019, January 7. 10.1016/j.vaccine.2017.08.087
**Meningoencephalitis**

**Definition:** Meningitis is an infection or inflammation of the membranes covering the brain and spinal cord. Encephalitis is central nervous system inflammation presenting with depressed or altered consciousness and signs of focal or multifocal central nervous system abnormality. Evidence of both conditions are required to diagnose meningoencephalitis.

**Reportable if:** Onset within 15 days of COVID immunization:

1. Physician diagnosed Meningoencephalitis  
   **AND**
2. Vaccine recipient develops clinical symptoms of meningitis AND/OR encephalitis  
   **AND**
3. No etiological agent/cause for diagnosis was identified  
   **AND**
4. CSF evaluation and/or neuroimaging are usually performed and are supportive of the diagnosis.

See: Encephalitis, myelitis, and acute disseminated encephalomyelitis (ADEM): Case definitions and guidelines for collection, analysis, and presentation of immunization safety data. 2007, August 1. [10.1016/j.vaccine.2007.04.060](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.vaccine.2007.04.060)
VII. Reportable Adverse Events Following Immunization

Summary of AEFI Reporting Criteria

See the Adverse Events Following Immunization (AEFI) Policy for Alberta Immunization Providers for complete descriptions.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>AEFI</th>
<th>Reporting Criteria</th>
<th>Vaccines (temporal criteria**)</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Inactivated</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Live</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ADEM (acute disseminated encephalomyelitis)</td>
<td>• Physician-diagnosed encephalomyelitis AND</td>
<td>0 – 42 days</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• One or more focal or multifocal findings referable to the central nervous system</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>MMR</td>
<td>5 – 30 days</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Varicella</td>
<td>5 – 42 days</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adenopathy</td>
<td>• Enlargement of one or more lymph nodes, &gt; 1.5 cm in diameter AND/OR</td>
<td>0 – 7 days</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Draining sinus over a lymph node.</td>
<td>5 – 30 days</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Allergic Reaction</td>
<td>• One or more of the following signs/symptoms:</td>
<td>0 – 48 hours</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>hives, itching, edema, stridor, wheezing</td>
<td>0 – 48 hours</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anaesthesia/Paraesthesia</td>
<td>• Physician-diagnosed anaesthesia or paraesthesia lasting 24 hours or more</td>
<td>0 to 15 days</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>MMR</td>
<td>0 – 30 days</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Varicella</td>
<td>0 – 42 days</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anaphylaxis</td>
<td>• Sudden onset* AND rapid progression of signs and symptoms AND</td>
<td>0 – 24 hours</td>
</tr>
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<td></td>
<td>• Symptoms include one or more of the following:</td>
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<td></td>
<td>progressive painless swelling around face or mouth, new onset of wheezing,</td>
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<td></td>
<td>shortness of breath, and/or stridor, hypotension/collapse OR</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Event managed as anaphylaxis at the time of occurrence</td>
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<td><strong>Typically, within seconds to minutes, usually within 1 hour.</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Arthralgia/Arthritis</td>
<td>• Arthralgia or arthritis lasting ≥ 24 hours</td>
<td>n/a</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>5 – 30 days</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bell’s Palsy</td>
<td>• Physician-diagnosed Bell’s palsy</td>
<td>0 – 3 months</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>0 – 3 months</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cellulitis</td>
<td>• Physician-diagnosed cellulitis AND</td>
<td>0 - 7 days</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Characterized by at least three of the following local signs or symptoms:</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>pain or tenderness to touch, erythema, induration or swelling, warm to touch AND</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Reaction is at the injection site</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AEFI</td>
<td>Reporting Criteria</td>
<td>Vaccines (temporal criteria**)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>---------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Convolusions (febrile and afebrile)</td>
<td>Seizures (febrile or afebrile) with generalized, tonic, clonic, tonic-clonic, or atonic motor manifestations, occurring within AND History or report of loss of consciousness.</td>
<td>Inactivated: 0 – 72 hours Live: 5 – 14 days</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Encephalitis</td>
<td>Physician diagnosed encephalitis AND At least one listed indicator of central nervous system inflammation AND &gt; 24 hours of depressed or altered consciousness with one or more signs of reduced responsiveness OR One or more signs of focal or multi-focal central nervous system abnormality</td>
<td>Inactivated: 0 – 42 days Live: MMR 5 – 30 days Varicella 5 – 42 days</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Erythema Multiforme</td>
<td>Rash specific to Erythema Multiforme Must be diagnosed by a physician.</td>
<td>Inactivated: 5 days or more Live: 5 days or more</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GBS (Guillain-Barre syndrome)</td>
<td>Physician-diagnosed GBS</td>
<td>Inactivated: 0 to 6 weeks Live: 0 to 6 weeks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HHE (hypotonic-hyporesponsive episode)</td>
<td>Hypotonia (muscle limpness) AND Either hyporesponsiveness or unresponsiveness AND Either pallor or cyanosis</td>
<td>Inactivated: 0 – 72 hours Live: 0 – 72 hours</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Infected Abscess</td>
<td>Spontaneous or surgical drainage of purulent material from the mass OR Demonstration of material by an imaging technique AND Localized sign(s) of inflammation, which would include one of the following: erythema, pain to light touch, swelling, and warmth to touch AND Evidence of resolution/improvement temporally related to antimicrobial therapy</td>
<td>Inactivated: 0 - 7 days Live: 0 - 7 days</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Intussusception</td>
<td>Physician-diagnosed intussusception following rotavirus vaccine receipt AND Evidence of intestinal obstruction and/or invagination and/or vascular compromise</td>
<td>Inactivated: n/a Live: Rotavirus vaccine: 0 – 42 days</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meningitis</td>
<td>Physician-diagnosed aseptic meningitis for which no other cause has been identified.</td>
<td>Inactivated: 0 – 15 days Live: MMR: 5 – 30 days Varicella: 0 – 42 days</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Myelitis</td>
<td>Physician-diagnosed myelitis AND Two or more indicators suggestive of spinal cord inflammation.</td>
<td>Inactivated: 0 – 42 days Live: 5 – 42 days</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AEFI</td>
<td>Reporting Criteria</td>
<td>Vaccines (temporal criteria**)</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Inactivated</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Narcolepsy</td>
<td>* Narcolepsy is characterized by excessive daytime sleepiness and episodes of muscle weakness brought on by emotions. See <a href="https://www.who.int/vaccine_safety/initiative/BC_Narcolepsy_case_definition.pdf">www.who.int/vaccine_safety/initiative/BC_Narcolepsy_case_definition.pdf</a>. (Reported under “Other Severe or Unusual Events)</td>
<td>0 – 4 weeks</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Nodule                   | * Firm nodule is at the injection site AND  
  * Persists for > 1 month                                                                                                                                                                                      | 0 - 7 days | 0 - 7 days |
| ORS                      | * Onset of bilateral red eyes AND  
  * One or more of the following respiratory symptoms: Cough, wheeze, chest tightness, difficulty breathing, difficulty swallowing, hoarseness, sore throat WITH or WITHOUT facial edema. | Influenza: 0 – 24 hours | n/a          |
| Orchitis                 | * Physician-diagnosed orchitis                                                                                                                                     | n/a | Mumps: 5 – 30 days |
| Paralysis                | * Physician-diagnosed paralysis with no other cause identified AND  
  * Lasting more than 24 hours                                                                                                                                                                                  | 0 - 15 days | MMR or OPV: 0 – 30 days  
  * Varicella: 0 – 42 days |
| Parotitis                | * Physician-diagnosed parotitis                                                                                                                                      | n/a | Mumps: 5 – 30 days |
| Rash                     | * Varicella-like rash with ≥ 50 lesions OR  
  * Requiring hospitalization OR  
  * Rashes or eruptions on the skin that are not expected, with an onset within 7 days of immunization and lasts ≥ 4 days AND either  
  * Generalized rash: systemic eruption in two or more parts of the body OR  
  * Localized at non-injection site; eruption localized at another part of the body, away from the injection site OR  
  * Requires hospitalization.                                                                                                                             | 0 – 7 days | Varicella: 0 – 42 days |
| Screaming Episode/Persistent Crying | * Presence of screaming or crying > 3 hours                                                                                                                        | 0 – 72 hours | 0 – 72 hours |
| Severe Diarrhea and/or Vomiting | * Three or more episodes of vomiting or diarrhea within a 24-hour period AND  
  * Vomiting and/or diarrhea is severe                                                                                                                      | 0 – 72 hours | 0 – 72 hours |
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>AEFI</th>
<th>Reporting Criteria</th>
<th>Inactivated</th>
<th>Live</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| SIRVA                        | • Includes both pain and reduced range of motion AND these are limited to the shoulder in which the intramuscular vaccine was administered; and  
  • No history of pain, inflammation or dysfunction of the affected shoulder prior to intramuscular vaccine administration that would explain the alleged signs, symptoms, examination findings, and/or diagnostic studies occurring after vaccine injection; including no other condition or abnormality is present that would explain the patient's symptoms.  
  • Lasting longer than 4 days (Reported under “Other Severe or Unusual Events”) | 0 – 7 days  | 0 – 7 days  |
| Sterile Abscess              | • Spontaneous or surgical drainage of non-purulent material from the mass OR  
  • Demonstration of material by an imaging technique AND  
  • Absence of localized signs of inflammation such as erythema, pain to light touch, and warm to touch at the injection site OR  
  • Failure to resolve or improve on antimicrobial therapy | 0 - 7 days  | 0 - 7 days  |
| SSPE (subacute sclerosing panencephalitis) | • Physician-diagnosed SSPE | n/a         | Measles: 0 – 10 years |
| Swelling and/or Pain         | • Swelling extends past the nearest joint OR  
  • Severe pain that interferes with the normal use of the limb lasts > 4 days OR  
  • Reaction requires hospitalization | 0 - 48 hours | 0 - 48 hours |
| Thrombocytopenia             | • Physician-diagnosed platelet count of less than 150 X 109/L | 0 – 6 weeks  | 0 – 6 weeks  |
| Other Severe or Unusual Events | • Not clearly covered by other reporting categories and fits description above or requires emergency room visit within 72 hours of immunization OR  
  • Any death of a vaccine recipient temporarily linked to immunization where no other clear cause of death can be established. | 0 – 4 weeks  | 0 – 4 weeks  |

**Temporal criteria guidelines in this table are generally agreed upon approximate timelines. The timeframe between immunization and event onset is an important consideration in assessment of causality.**
References for AESI Case Definitions

**MIS-C**


**Acute Cardiovascular Injury**


**Coagulation Disorder**


**Acute Kidney Injury**


Acute Liver Injury


Anosmia/Ageusia


