

Provincial Mandate

Revision Date: September 25, 2018

Legislative Authority

The *Public Health Act, Revised Statutes of Alberta 2000*¹ and the *Communicable Diseases Regulation, Alberta Regulation 238/1985*² provide the authority for Alberta's Immunization Program. Under this legislation, the Chief Medical Officer of Health (CMOH) is responsible for monitoring the health of Albertans and making recommendations to the Minister and Alberta Health Services (AHS) (the regional health authority established under the *Regional Health Authorities Act*³ on measures to protect and promote the health of the public and to prevent disease and injury). This legislation requires the CMOH to act as a liaison between the government and AHS, MOHs and executive officers in the administration of the Act. AHS Zones are required to operationalize Alberta's immunization programs. Public health nurses, under the auspices of the MOH, are accountable for the implementation of immunization programs at the AHS Zone level according to provincial requirements.

Leadership

In Alberta, the Minister of Health, through the Public Health and Compliance Division of Alberta Health, provides leadership in disease control and prevention, wellness strategy development and health surveillance. The Office of the Chief Medical Officer of Health and the Public Health and Compliance Division are responsible for developing policies and high-level program guidelines for the provincial immunization program. Alberta Health provides budgetary support for immunization programs by providing vaccines without charge to AHS and participating community providers for administration to Albertans in accordance with the guidelines in the AIP.

Through the Immunization/Adverse Reactions to Immunization (IMM/ARI) electronic repository, Alberta Health collects individual immunization events, which help determine immunization rates for the province. IMM/ARI also collects and monitors all reported adverse events following immunization (AEFI). The non-nominal AEFI are forwarded electronically to CAEFISS, thereby contributing to the national monitoring system of adverse events and to the continued safety of our immunization system.

The Alberta public health physicians are a group composed of the Medical Officers of Health from AHS representing AHS Zones in discussions pertaining to immunization programs. The Alberta Advisory Committee on Immunization is a multidisciplinary committee composed of clinical experts including AHS Zone MOHs, AHS Province-Wide immunization senior leadership, infectious disease physicians, an ethicist, and a representative from the public health laboratory. The mandate of this committee is to provide ongoing and timely medical, scientific and public health advice related to immunization to Alberta Health.

Alberta Health has an immunization strategy to minimize the risk of vaccine-preventable diseases by increasing immunization rates:

- Enhance accessibility
- Improve enabling technology
- Strengthen parental education and counselling
- Strengthen partnerships
- Strengthen provider training and education
- Strengthen public education and awareness
- Strengthen research and evaluation.

References

¹ Province of Alberta. (2015). *Public Health Act*, R.S.A. 2000, c. P-37. canlii.ca/t/52dxk.

² Province of Alberta. (2014). *Communicable Diseases Regulation*, Alta. Reg. 238/1985. canlii.ca/t/52768

³ Province of Alberta (2000). *Regional Health Authorities Act*, RSA 2000, c R-10. canlii.ca/t/5292c