



Appendix D: Reporting an Adverse Event Following Immunization with COVID-19 Vaccines

Refer to Government of Nunavut's [Immunization Manual](#) for more information

The [Practice Guidelines](#) in the Immunization Manual provide a comprehensive description of reporting an adverse event following immunization (AEFI).

Definition of an adverse event following immunization:

An AEFI is any untoward medical occurrence in a vaccinee that follows immunization and may or may not have a causal relationship with the vaccine or the immunization process.

Temporal association alone (onset of event following receipt of vaccine) is not proof of causation.

Recommendations following an adverse event:

A health professional who is aware of an adverse event following immunization occurring must complete an [AEFI Report Form](#). Completed forms should be faxed or emailed to the Regional Communicable Disease Coordinator (RCDC) as soon as possible after the event. A Public Health Officer (PHO), or delegate, will review and work with the team to provide recommendations back to the provider. The Office of the CPHO will ensure all AEFIs are reported to the Canadian Adverse Events Following Immunization Surveillance System (CAEFISS).

Recommendations following adverse event review should be discussed with the client, provided to the client's primary health care provider and documented on the client's chart.

Examples of when to complete an AEFI Report Form (more detail in Practice Guidelines):

Example	AEFI Report Form
Events which the client's health care provider considers may be a reason to postpone a future immunization with the same vaccine.	Fill out and send AEFI Report Form to RCDC
Any unexpected events that are not considered usual side effects of the vaccine.	Fill out and send AEFI Report Form to RCDC
All events managed as anaphylaxis and any allergic events.	Fill out and send AEFI Report Form to RCDC
All neurological events including febrile and afebrile convulsions.	Fill out and send AEFI Report Form to RCDC
All serious events: life threatening or resulting in death; requiring medical treatment or hospitalization; or resulting in a residual disability.	Fill out and send AEFI Report Form to RCDC <i>Note: For COVID-19 vaccines, send report if death occurs up to 30 days after vaccination, regardless of cause.</i>
Local injection site reactions and non-specific systemic reactions (e.g., headache, myalgia) (side effects from the vaccine are found in the COVID-19 Vaccine Information Sheet)	No AEFI Report Form required unless reactions are much more severe than anticipated or last much longer than typically expected.
Vasovagal syncope (fainting).	No AEFI Report Form required
Events which have another obvious cause (e.g., co-existing conditions).	No AEFI Report Form required