

There is a NEW law in Alberta!

As of December 17, 2018 any Health Care Practitioner (HCP) who becomes aware of an adverse event following immunization (AEFI) for all vaccines, provincially or non-provincially funded, must report the event to Alberta Health Services (AHS). This legislative requirement is the outcome of revised [Immunization Regulations](#) within the Public Health Act of Alberta.

The AHS Province-wide Immunization Program has created the **AHS Provincial AEFI Team** who will respond to and follow-up reports received from HCPs in all zones related to AEFI.

What needs to be reported?

Anything that meets the definition of an AEFI needs to be reported. Please refer to the AHS [webpage](#) for the definition of an AEFI.

When to report?

You have 3 days!

Adverse Events Following Immunization must be reported to the **AHS Provincial AEFI Team** within **three (3) days** of the health practitioner determining or being informed that a patient has had an AEFI.

Who should report?

ALL HCPs who become aware of an AEFI must report to AHS regardless of whether the vaccine was administered in a public health office, hospital setting, pharmacy, private travel clinic or physician's office.

How to report?

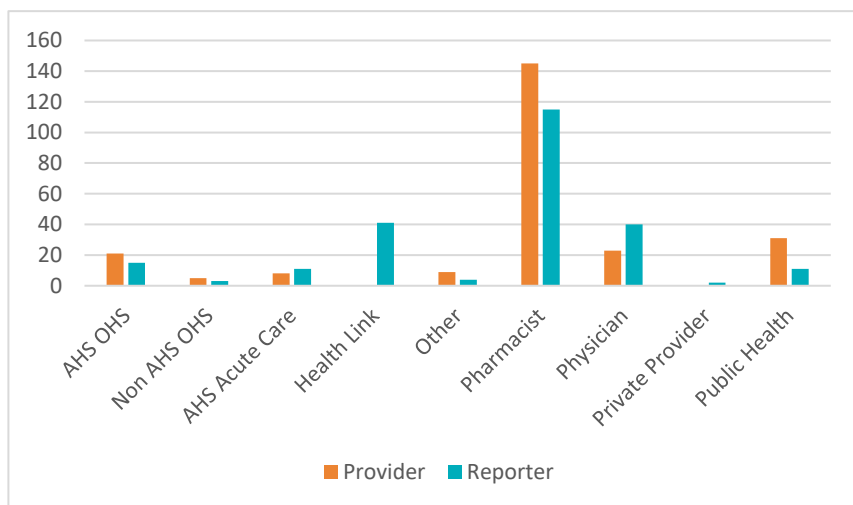
Please see the AHS [webpage](#):
<https://www.albertahealthservices.ca/info/page16187.aspx>
to report an AEFI online
or
Call 1-855-444-2324 (1-855-444-CDCI)

You have a crucial role in monitoring vaccine safety in Alberta!

What has happened in 6 months?

- New Alberta Health Immunization Regulations and legislation for AEFI reporting comes into effect December 2018
- The Provincial AEFI Team is formed in January 2019 to investigate potential AEFI reports
- The Provincial AEFI Team has followed up on over 240 reports from pharmacists, physicians, Health Link, AHS acute care/ER sites, private travel clinics, AHS and non-AHS WHS
- In the first 6 months of this program, pharmacists are the main vaccine providers and AEFI reporters

January 8 – June 30 2019



Frequently Asked Questions

Q. I work in the ER and do not routinely offer patients immunizations. Am I responsible for reporting an adverse reaction following immunization (AEFI) even though I did not give the vaccine?

A. Yes. If a patient comes to the ER with a complaint about an AEFI and is treated for it, it must be reported even though you did not administer the vaccine. The new law states that if you are a Health Care Practitioner (HCP) you must report an AEFI within 3 days of becoming aware the event has occurred.

Q. I am an immunizing pharmacist. If I report the AEFI to the vaccine manufacturer, is that good enough?

A. No. The new legislation states the AEFI must be reported to AHS through the AHS webpage. If an AEFI is reportable to Alberta Health it is done by the Provincial AEFI Team.

Q. Can I report an AEFI even if I am not sure of the vaccine, the Lot number, the provider or the date it was given?

A. Yes. Fill out the fields of the online form with as much information as you can. The Provincial AEFI Team will investigate with the patient and the provider.

Did you know?

- ✓ Over 90% of patients who experienced an AEFI were given recommendations to continue with routine immunization
- ✓ The Provincial AEFI Team follows up with all patients, providers and reporters giving consistent, evidence-based recommendations for immunizations
- ✓ The most common AEFI criteria reported is allergic reaction, followed by swelling &/or pain and cellulitis

What to Report?

Anything that meets the definition of an AEFI needs to be reported. (Please refer to AHS webpage for the definition of an AEFI). Not sure if it fits the definition? Report it and we can determine if it meets criteria eligibility.

How to report?

On the AHS External website:
ahs.ca/info/Page16187.aspx
Toll Free: 1- 855 - 444 - 2324

When to report?

An AEFI must be reported to the AHS AEFI team within **3 days** of the Health Care Practitioner becoming aware that a patient has had an AEFI