

Policy 2.3 - Routine Immunization of Infants, Children and Adults in New Brunswick

Purpose: The purpose of this policy is to provide standards to those providing publicly funded vaccine for the routine immunization of infants, children and adults in New Brunswick.

Preamble: Immunization is one the most successful, equitable and cost-effective public health interventions of modern times. Vaccines used in Canada are highly effective and extremely safe. In fact, vaccines are among the safest tools of modern medicine, and serious side effects are rare.² Following a standard schedule and evidence-based practice guidelines provides the maximum level of protection that can be obtained through immunization.

The *New Brunswick Routine Immunization Schedule* is the intended standard for the routine immunization of infants, children and adults. When combined with the National Guidelines for Immunization Practice³ and the *New Brunswick Routine Immunization Schedule*, the practitioner protects not only the individual but entire communities. On occasion, the routine schedule may be disrupted and modifications to it may be necessary; however, interruptions do not necessitate starting a series over again. The Canadian Immunization Guide developed by the National Advisory Committee on Immunization (NACI) is published by the Public Health Agency of Canada and should be used as a resource for immunization practice in New Brunswick. In addition, local immunization co-ordinators and regional medical officers of health can provide additional information on immunization practice.

Policy: Providers of publicly funded vaccine will provide vaccine as recommended in the New Brunswick Routine Immunization Schedule (as per Standard 3.1) or as recommended by NACI in instances where a routine schedule cannot be maintained.

Procedure:

1. The *New Brunswick Routine Immunization Schedule* for infants, children and adults is the standard to be followed.
2. In instances where the *New Brunswick Routine Immunization Schedule* cannot be followed and additional information is required, practitioners should refer to the NACI. Alternatively, practitioners may contact local immunization co-ordinators or the regional medical officer of health.

² CPHA 100 Celebrating a Century of Public Health Leadership, 12 Great Achievements, <http://cpha100.ca/12-great-achievements/taking-anti-vaccine-movement-and-public-apathy>.

³ Public Health Agency of Canada, Canadian Immunization Guide, <http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/publicat/cig-gci/index-eng.php>.