

# IMMSFORMATION!

ISSUE#2 January 2019



BC Centre for Disease Control  
An agency of the Provincial Health Services Authority

## THE CANADIAN IMMUNIZATION CONFERENCE 2018



BC was well represented at the Canadian Immunization Conference. The conference provided an opportunity for those working in the field of immunization and vaccinology to hear about new research, strategies and best practices and to network with colleagues across the country. Some highlights of the conference included:

- A commemoration of the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Spanish Flu, including an exhibit detailing the story of the disease and screening of the film “Unmasking Influenza” as well as a plenary given by Dr. Nancy Cox
- Several sessions addressing the challenges of vaccine hesitancy, including an all-day pre-conference workshop put on by the Canadian Pediatric Society

For more information and access to speaker presentations, check out the [CIC 2018 website](#).



## NEW AND UPCOMING

The Western Canada Immunization Forum will be held in Vancouver on Tuesday, March 5<sup>th</sup>, 2019. This 1 day event is an educational and networking event for immunization program leaders, managers and front line staff, and is hosted by the British Columbia Immunization Committee. At this year’s event, participants will discuss challenges and opportunities in immunization, vaccine hesitancy, use of immunization coverage mapping to stimulate activities to improve uptake and innovative partnerships with community based pharmacists to meet the needs of specific communities. Additional topics include cultural safety for indigenous clients, immunization of adults with multiple comorbidities, clinical immunization services for high risk children at BC’s tertiary care pediatric hospital, the national network of pediatric sites studying adverse events, the Kids Boost Immunity initiative, and Canada’s role in Ebola vaccine development. The event is broadcast live and sessions will be archived for later viewing.

Registration for this event is by allocation through designated health authority/agency leads until January 31st, and thereafter will be open to any health care professional who wishes to register. For more information go to: [Immunization Forum](#) or contact [IMMSForum@bccdc.ca](mailto:IMMSForum@bccdc.ca)



## GUIDELINES

The [BC Immunization Manual](#) was updated in October and December of 2018. Notable revisions include the addition of a biological products page for [Shingrix®](#) and updates to the product page for [Zostavax II®](#). Other notable updates to the manual include revisions of [Appendix B – Administration of Biological Products](#) and [Appendix D – Reducing Immunization Injection Pain](#). Appendix D has been revised to include approaches to reducing immunization injection pain in all age groups that are based on “[HELPinKids & Adults \(expanded and updated\)](#): Clinical Practice Guideline for Reducing Pain during Vaccine Injections in Children and Adults”. Specific details of the revisions to the 2 appendices can be found in [Administrative Circular 2018:20](#).



## EDUCATION

The **Pearls for Immunization Practice** course has been recently updated and is now CME (Continuing Medical Education) accredited. The course is accessible through the UBC CPD (Continuing Professional Development) [website](#). This online self-learning course provides practical immunization information and highlights important resources. The intended audience includes family physicians and family practice residents as well as any other interested immunization providers. The course can be used as a refresher for public health nurses, pharmacists, registered nurses, nurse practitioners, obstetricians, pediatricians, and interested students. The course is free and takes approximately 90 minutes to complete.



## RESOURCES

### Non-Publicly Funded Vaccines for Children: Updated Resources

The BCIC Immunization Promotion working group and the BC Pediatric Society have updated 2 resources available under [Non-Publicly Funded Vaccines for Children](#)

### Extra Protection: Childhood Vaccines Available for Purchase

- A [poster](#) for use in the clinic setting. The poster informs parents about vaccines available for purchase
- Posters will be distributed through the regional health authorities

### Extra Protection: Non-Publicly Funded Vaccines for Children

- A quick [reference](#) for health care providers to inform discussions on non-publicly funded vaccines
- Provides links to key online immunization resources

For more information on non-publicly funded vaccines, go to the BC Pediatric Society's website:

- [Families](#)
- [Health care providers](#)



## VACCINE SAFETY

### Changes to Adverse Events Following Immunization (AEFI) Reporting in BC

Effective January 1, 2019 adverse events following immunization (AEFI) are reportable by all health professionals to public health using the BC [AEFI case report form](#). AEFI reporting is a key component to post-marketing vaccine safety surveillance with voluntary electronic reporting of AEFI in place in BC since May 2004. The legislative change making AEFI a reportable event under the BC Public Health Act will support local and provincial public health monitoring for vaccine safety signals. Resources for community vaccine providers are available on the BCCDC website [vaccine safety page](#), including a printable one page overview of [provider responsibilities](#) for AEFI reporting to local public health. For more information go to the [BC Public Health Act: Reporting Information Affecting Public Health Regulation](#)



## VACCINE UPTAKE

At the end of November the BCCDC published an interactive childhood immunization coverage dashboard. Explore the new [dashboard](#) on the BCCDC website.



## KUDOS

The Surrey Now newspaper recently did a [feature story](#) on Canada's top school on Kids Boost Immunity (KBI), Senator Reid Elementary, where 120 students answered a whopping **400 questions each** on their phones, tablets and computers.



### Do you know a teacher?

"We learn, then earn so others have a fair turn". That's how one Vancouver teacher described her experience with using KBI in her classroom. To date, students have answered over half a million questions about immunization with some teachers even starting to report that using KBI prior to vaccination day also reduced anxiety among students. Said another, "There was still anxiety towards the needle, but less fear about why they were getting it."

Do you know a teacher? Then please, pass on the word and help raise vaccine literacy for the next generation. Teachers can easily register their class at [www.kidsboostimmunity.com](http://www.kidsboostimmunity.com)