

IMMSFORMATION

A newsletter for community vaccine providers

The BCCDC is located on the unceded, ancestral and traditional lands of the xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Səlilwətaʔ (Tsleil-Waututh), and Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish) Nations

We're back!

The Immunization Programs and Vaccine Preventable Diseases Service (IPVPDS) at the BC Centre for Disease Control (BCCDC) is pleased to re-launch the Immsformation quarterly newsletter!

The aim of this newsletter is to share information with immunization providers, and to promote immunization resources and initiatives across BC.

New to the Immsformation newsletter is the "Truth & Reconciliation Library" – a section dedicated to sharing resources to support immunization providers' capacity to provide anti-racist, respectful, culturally-safe care.

Western Canada Immunization Forum

The Western Canada Immunization Forum (previously known as the BC Immunization forum) will be held in **Vancouver** on **Wednesday March 6th, 2024.**



- This annual one-day educational event is hosted by the BC Immunization Committee. The forum can be attended by public health professionals, immunization providers, nurses, physicians, midwives, pharmacists, naturopathic physicians, program managers and leaders.
- Registration is free. The event will be live-streamed and recorded for later viewing. For more information, visit bccdc.ca/immsforum.

NEW From ImmunizeBC: "Vaccines Adults Need" Page

The [Vaccines Adults Need](#) page is a "one-stop shop" for adults seeking information on vaccines they might need, including publicly and non-publicly funded vaccines. The page is organized into the following sections:

- Vaccines all adults need;
- Other vaccines adults may need based on age, life events, job, travel, health conditions, and other factors;
- Vaccines available for purchase for extra protection;
- Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs).

Visit the [Vaccines Adults Need](#) page

Q&A for Health Care Providers – PCV 15 & 20

A Q&A for healthcare providers on the non-publicly funded 15-valent and 20-valent **Pneumococcal Conjugate Vaccines** (PCV 15 and PCV20) is available on our [BCCDC website](#).

This resource was developed to support frontline immunization providers to answer frequently asked questions from the public about these vaccines.



Toolkit: CARD System for Vaccination

The CARD system (**Comfort, Ask, Relax, Distract**) is a vaccine delivery framework that integrates evidence-based strategies proven to **reduce pain, fear, and stress-related responses in vaccine recipients.**

- BCCDC collaborated with Dr. Anna Taddio, the founder of the CARD system, to create four toolkits to facilitate the implementation of the CARD system in school immunization clinics.
- For more information, visit the BCCDC [CARD System for Vaccination](#) page which includes toolkits for health care providers, school staff, parents/guardians, and students.





Kids Boost Immunity: Free Lesson Plans for Schools

Kids Boost Immunity hosts hundreds of free vaccine-related lessons developed in partnership with teachers and public health on science and social issues.



- These lessons align with BC's provincial curriculum for students in grades 4-12.
- **"How to Handle Your Shots Like a Champ"** is a lesson plan designed to support students to better understand vaccines and manage their experience at school vaccination clinics. It includes class discussions, videos, word search activities, quizzes, and more.
- Every time students score 80% or higher on a quiz, Kids Boost Immunity donates life-saving vaccine through UNICEF!
- For more information on Kids Boost Immunity, including how to register as a health care provider, visit kidsboostimmunity.com. See the [Quick Start Guide](#) on how to access lesson plans.

Truth and Reconciliation Library



National Collaborating Centre
for Indigenous Health

The National Collaborating Centre for Indigenous Health (NCCIH) is a national Indigenous organization established in 2005 by the Government of Canada and funded through the Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC). The NCCIH support First Nations, Inuit, and Métis public health renewal and health equity through knowledge translation and exchange.

Visit the [NCCIH](https://nccih.ca) to explore various knowledge resources and publications on various topics, including immunizations.

Updates

FNHA's Shingrix® Vaccine Coverage for First Nations Elders 60 years and older

Effective **September 1, 2023**, the First Nations Health Authority's (FNHA) Shingrix® shingles vaccine coverage is available at no cost to First Nations Elders who are 60 years and older. This change is intended to make the vaccine accessible to a larger segment of the Elder population. Coverage was previously limited to those aged 65 years and older.

To find out more, visit: [Recent Changes to Coverage of Shingrix® Vaccine and FreeStyle® Libre 2 Glucose Monitor \(fnha.ca\)](#) and [FNHA Health Benefits Shingles Fact Sheet](#)

BC Immunization Manual Update: CART Therapy



- Immunization guidelines following Chimeric Antigen Receptor T-cell (CART) Therapy have been added to the BC Immunization Manual. CART therapy is a novel treatment for hematologic malignancies, and, similarly to HSCT recipients, immune memory may be lost following treatment.
- As such, **recipients of CART therapy should be regarded as "never immunized", and reimmunization is recommended as for HSCT recipients.** The medical specialist will determine the appropriate time to commence immunizations and will provide written guidance to the client for sharing with the immunizer. For more information see the guidelines for [Hematopoietic Stem Cell Transplantation \(HSCT\) and Chimeric Antigen Receptor T-cell \(CART\) Therapy](#).
- To stay up-to-date on BC Immunization Guidelines updates:

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