

IMMSFORMATION

A newsletter for immunization providers

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

BC wide transition from PEDIACEL® to PENTACEL®



BC will be transitioning from PEDIACEL® (DTaP-IPV-Hib) to PENTACEL® (DTaP-IPV-Hib) vaccine as Sanofi will no longer be manufacturing PEDIACEL®.

PENTACEL® requires reconstitution and will be packaged with the QUADRACEL® and lyophilized Act-HIB® components in the same box. See the updated Diphtheria-Tetanus-Acellular Pertussis-Polio-Haemophilus Influenzae Type b Adsorbed (DTaP-IPV-Hib) product page in the BC Immunization Manual for more information. Page 6 of the [Product Monograph](#) includes an image depicting the steps for reconstitution.

NEW

Epidemiological reports: Hib and iGAS

- Since 2020, an increase of **invasive *Haemophilus influenzae* type b (Hib)** has been observed among adults in BC, with the majority of cases in recent years reporting housing instability and/or substance use as risk factors. Find the latest epidemiological summary for 2020-2023 [here](#).
- In 2017, BC experienced the highest reported incidence of **invasive group A streptococcal disease (iGAS)** since this disease became notifiable in 1997. Since then, incidence of iGAS has remained higher than in the years preceding 2017, including throughout the COVID-19 pandemic period. Incidence in 2023 surpassed the previous maximum recorded in 2017. Read the 2013-2023 epidemiological summary [here](#).

Visit [this page](#) for future epidemiological reports

Vaccine Storage and Handling Course

The Vaccine Storage and Handling course on [LearningHub](#) has been updated. Updates include:

- Storage and handling of **frozen state vaccines**
- Additional instructions on **accurate temperature monitoring**
- Additional details on steps involved in completing the [Cold Chain Incident form](#)

The intended audience for this course are **individuals responsible for the storage and handling of vaccines** (e.g., medical office assistants, health unit aides etc.); and **interested immunizers and health care students**. For more information on vaccine storage and handling, refer to the [Vaccine Management](#) page.

NEW

From ImmunizeBC: Immunization and Pregnancy Page

ImmunizeBC's [Immunization & pregnancy](#) page has been updated:

- In addition to **new information on vaccines**, a link to the new [Vaccines in Pregnancy Canada website](#) has been included.
- The page's **visual appeal and usability** have been enhanced by redesigning the layout, using accordions and descriptive subheadings, and revising text.



Immunization Course for Nursing Schools to Support BC's School Vaccination Program

A new course titled "**How to Handle Your Vaccines Like a Champ**" is currently in development, and will support nursing students to educate youth in BC classrooms before school clinics.

This course will be offered for free online, and will be part of the [Kids Boost Immunity](#) (KBI) initiative, which **helps students better understand the vaccines they will receive in school**. The course will include four comprehensive learning modules to ensure a positive clinic day experience, and will be available on KBI's sister site for adult learning, [I Boost Immunity](#), in August.

COVID-19

COVID-19 Vaccine Dashboard

The [COVID-19 Vaccination Coverage Dashboard](#) provides an overview of COVID-19 vaccination rates throughout BC. It delineates two key eligible populations: individuals aged **65 and older**, and those **aged at least 6 months with severe or moderate immunosuppression**.

This dashboard is updated weekly on Thursdays and **presents coverage rates categorized by age group, health authority, and local health area**. Archived versions of previous dashboards are also accessible, providing insight into past vaccination campaigns.

Truth and Reconciliation Library

Trans, Two-Spirit, and non-binary people deserve access to the care and support they need to thrive. Visit [weareallies](#) to access more information related to **gender-affirming care**.

On July 24, 2024, the National Collaborating Centre for Determinants of Health (NCCDH) held an important webinar on "**Promoting the rights and health of transgender people as a public health equity priority**". The recording will be available [here](#) or on the NCCDH [YouTube page](#) in the next week.



National Collaborating Centre
for Determinants of Health

Centre de collaboration nationale
des déterminants de la santé