



Immunization Practice Standard (Nursing)

NOTE: All nurses immunizing for COVID-19 as a [Nurse Independent Activity \(NIA\)](#) must take the education requirements set out in the [COVID-19 Vaccine Education Requirements Practice Update](#).

Site Applicability

All Vancouver Coastal Health (VCH) and Providence Health Care (PHC) Settings

Practice Level

Setting	Profession	Basic Skill	Advanced Skill (requiring additional education)
Acute	RNs, RPNs, LPNs	With an order*	
Peer Nurse Immunizers	RNs, RPNs, LPNs		Nurse Independent Activity (NIA): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Administration of Influenza vaccines to VCH/PHC staff members only
Community	RNs	With an order*	Nurse Independent Activity (NIA): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Administration of vaccines except travel vaccines Travel vaccines limited to VCH Travel Clinic only
	RPNs	With an order*	Nurse Independent Activity (NIA): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Administration of vaccines except travel vaccines to clients greater than or equal to age 4
	LPNs	With an order*	Nurse Independent Activity (NIA): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Administration of vaccines to clients greater than or equal to age 4 with stable or predictable states of health defined by practice setting: Home Health: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Influenza, Pneumococcal, and emerging pathogens vaccines to clients greater than or equal to age 4, with the exception of pediatric oncology and Hematopoietic Stem Cell Transplant (HSCT) clients (refer to RN, NP or MD). Vancouver Community Primary Care: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Influenza, Pneumococcal, and emerging pathogens vaccines in adults, with the exception of Hematopoietic Stem Cell Transplant (HSCT) clients.

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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adults eligible for BCCDC Schedules D (greater than or equal to 18 years) or E (Routine Adult) and/or requiring additional vaccines for Other High Risk Conditions. Clients with Specific Immunocompromising Conditions must be referred to RN, RPN, MD or NP, <u>except</u>: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Routine inactivated vaccines for HIV, Chronic Kidney Disease, or Chronic Liver Disease (live vaccines require an MD or NP order). <p>Public Health:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Influenza, Pneumococcal, and emerging pathogens vaccines in clients greater than or equal to 4 years of age, with the exception of pediatric oncology and Hematopoietic Stem Cell Transplant (HSCT) clients (refer to RN, NP or MD). Routine school-age vaccines in clients greater than or equal to 4 years of age, who are up-to-date per BCCDC Schedule A. Clients must be referred to RN, NP or MD if: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Not on a routine BCCDC schedule (Schedule A – Children, Schedule E – Adults) Received their last vaccines out of province, or Belong to a BCCDC Special Populations group
VCH Long-Term Care and Assisted Living	RNs RPNs LPNs	With an order*	<p>Nurse Independent Activity (NIA):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Administration of COVID-19 vaccines only following completion of required education
PHC Long-Term Care and Assisted Living	RNs RPNs LPNs	With an order*	

* With an order, nurses must be competent to perform the required skills, evaluate the outcome, and respond to possible anaphylaxis. No additional education/training is required. Follow usual medication administration practices as per the [Parenteral Drug Therapy Manual](#) or [BCCDC Immunization Manual](#).

Additional Education Required for Advanced Skill

Successful completion of the following education is required prior to administering vaccines as a Nurse Independent Activity (NIA) based on the vaccine(s) being administered:

INFLUENZA VACCINE

Legend

✓	Required
✗	Not required
^	Additional information

Course	RNs/RPNs	LPNs	Peer Immunizers	COVID Clinic Immunizers
Understanding Autonomous Practice and NIA-NIP Course	✓	✓	✓	✗
Anaphylaxis: Initial Emergency Treatment by Nurses (Adult and Pediatric)	✓	✓	✓	✗
Annual VCH Seasonal Influenza Update or BCCDC Seasonal Influenza Update (To be renewed annually)	✓	✓	✗	✓
BCCDC Influenza Immunization Competency Course: Foundations of Influenza Disease & Vaccines (To be renewed every 3 years)	✓ ^	✓ ^	✗	✓ ^
Peer Immunizer Online Education (VCH, PHC)	✗	✗	✓	✗
Peer Immunizer Annual Flu Update (To be renewed annually)	✗	✗	✓	✗
BCCDC Immunization Competency Course for LPNs (To be renewed every 3 years)	✗	✗	✓ For LPNs only	✗

Additional Information

- BCCDC Influenza Immunization Competency Course: Foundations of Influenza Disease & Vaccines:
 - **RNs/RPNs** – Required to take this course if the Annual VCH Seasonal Influenza Update was not attended between 2019-2022 and renew every 3 years.
 - **LPNs** - Not required to take this course if they have completed/renewed the [BCCDC Online Immunization Competency Course for LPNs](#) in the past three years.
 - A clinical lead competent in immunization is required to complete the on-site portion of the course ([Influenza Skills Checklist](#) and [Immunization Skills Checklist](#)).

VACCINES OTHER THAN INFLUENZA

Legend

✓	Required
✗	Not required
^	Additional information

Course	RNs/RPNs	LPNs
Understanding Autonomous Practice and NIA-NIP Course	✓	✓
Anaphylaxis: Initial Emergency Treatment by Nurses (Adult and Pediatrics)	✓	✓
BCCDC Immunization Competency Course for RNs and RPNs To be renewed every 3 years	✓ ^	✗
BCCDC Immunization Competency Course for LPNs To be renewed every 3 years	✗	✓ ^
PARIS Immunization Adhoc Entry Course	✓ ^	

Additional Information

- BCCDC Immunization Competency Courses for RNs/RPNs and LPNs:
 - A clinical lead competent in immunization is required to complete the on-site portion of the course ([Immunization Skills Checklist](#)).
- PARIS Immunization Adhoc Entry Course additional information:
 - This course is only required for nurses working in VCH Public Health and Primary Care settings using PARIS to chart immunizations. The course must be taken post BCCDC Immunization Competency Course.

Requirements

Administering vaccines without an order is a restricted activity under Section 6 of BCCNM nursing Scopes of Practice for RNs, RPNs, and LPNs, and supported as an NIA per Policy:

- [Nurse Independent Activities \(NIA\) and Nurse-Initiated Protocols \(NIP\)](#)
- Note:* Physician or NP orders override the use of NIA.

Need to Know

This Practice Standard outlines the scope of practice and education/training requirements for all VCH and PHC nurses of all designations when administering vaccines.

Standard

Nurses administering vaccines as a Nurse Independent Activity (NIA) will follow the [BCCDC Immunization Manual](#).

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Documentation

- VCH Public Health and Primary Care settings using PARIS: document in PARIS Immunization Adhoc Module
- Mass immunization clinic settings: document in ImmsBC (COVID-19 and Influenza vaccine)
- All other settings: document care per site specific standards; in addition, document the NIAs as per Policy: [Nurse Independent Activities \(NIA\) and Nurse-Initiated Protocols \(NIP\)](#)
- Report adverse events related to vaccine administration to BCCDC:
 - o [Adverse Event Following Immunization \(AEFI\) Case Report Form](#)

Related Documents

- [Nurse Independent Activities \(NIA\) and Nurse-Initiated Protocols \(NIP\) Policy](#)
- [BCCDC Immunization Manual](#)
- [Anaphylaxis: Initial Emergency Treatment by Nurses \(Adult and Pediatric\)](#)
- [BCCNM Scope of Practice for Registered Nurses](#)
- [BCCNM Scope of Practice for Registered Psychiatric Nurses](#)
- [BCCNM Scope of Practice for Licensed Practical Nurses](#)



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