

Joint Position Statement

Immunization Information and Guidance for Healthcare Providers and Volunteers in Nova Scotia's Health Agencies/Facilities

To enhance public safety, healthcare providers and individuals working and volunteering in Nova Scotia's health agencies and facilities are encouraged to ensure their immunizations are up to date. Specifically, registered nurses (RNs) and nurse practitioners (NPs) are accountable to ensure that they have their personal immunization up to date, they use protective devices appropriately and they are informed of infection control policies and procedures.

Administration of the Immunization Vaccines:

Registered nurses with the required competencies may administer recommended and/or publicly-funded vaccines to staff* and/or volunteers within their workplaces when the facilities/agencies have an established policy/care directive.

*Staff refers to all agency employees. Agencies are to determine the volunteers within their facilities who should receive the vaccine(s).

To promote safe and competent immunization practice, registered nurses are expected to follow:

1. [Immunization Guidelines for Registered Nurses](#) – outlines the required competencies for RNs to administer the immunization vaccines.
2. [Nova Scotia Immunization Schedule](#) – highlights eligibility for publicly funded vaccines.
3. [Q&A: Seasonable Influenza Vaccine Information](#) – may be used as a guide for the administration of the 2014-2015 influenza vaccine(s).

Policy/Care Directive:

To ensure that all eligible provincial healthcare providers and volunteers in health agencies/facilities receive publicly-funded vaccines:

1. Agencies/facilities that currently have a policy/care directive to administer immunization to their staff and/or volunteers are to continue to follow their policy/directive.
2. Agencies/facilities without a policy/care directive can follow the Nova Scotia Immunization Schedule as a care directive (endorsed by the Chief Medical Officer of Health) until such time as the agency/facility establishes their own policy/care directive.

Without a policy/care directive, registered nurses do not have liability coverage for the administration of immunization.

Additional Resources:

For further information on influenza and influenza vaccine(s), please visit:

- » [Department of Health and Wellness website](#)
- » [Public Health Agency of Canada website](#)
- » [Canadian Immunization Guide](#)
- » [NACI Statement on Seasonal Influenza Vaccine](#)