

## FNHA Community information

### Vaccination Status Reporting Regulation

Many parents will be receiving a letter through their child's school in early November about the Vaccination Status Reporting Regulation.

This new regulation is a law that was put into place in BC in July 2019. It supports the gathering of immunization records into the provincial immunization registry (the system that stores immunization records in one place).

The regulation applies to all students in all schools within the Province's jurisdiction, including those who are home-schooled. If your child attends a school outside of a First Nations community, the regulation will apply to them; at this time it does not apply to children attending schools in First Nations communities.

### What will happen?

Public Health staff are checking immunization records already on file in the Provincial Immunization Registry, and identifying children whose records are missing or incomplete in the registry.

If your child's record is missing or incomplete in the registry, you may be contacted by Public Health and asked to provide Public Health with the immunization information required under the regulation.

If you are contacted, it may only mean that some information needs to be updated in the registry. It may not mean that your child is missing immunizations. Children with incomplete or missing immunization histories in the registry may have received immunizations where the registry is not used, for example, at your First Nations Community Health Centre, at your physician's office or with your pharmacist.)

If the registry has complete immunization information for your child, you will not be contacted.

### What should you do now?

You do not need to do anything now.

For all children, access to vaccines in community will not change. Your Community Health Nurse remains committed to providing a full range of immunization programs and the best possibility of health for your child. Regional Health Authorities, the First Nations Health Authority and communities are working together to better integrate community and provincial immunization record systems to ensure you have access to your child's complete immunization information.

### How can I tell if my child's immunizations records are complete?

If you do not know what your child's immunization status is, you can check the [vaccine status indicator on ImmunizeBC](#) to see whether your child's immunization record is in the provincial registry:

- If the vaccine status indicator says records are complete, you do not need to do anything – your child's records are in the immunization registry.
- If the vaccine status indicator says records are incomplete, it may be because:

- your child attends a school out of community – a public health nurse may contact you to let you know if they need more information
- your child is in Kindergarten, grade 6 or grade 9 – they may be due for an immunization this school year

It is always good to have your child's immunization records. ImmunizeBC has [Tips for locating immunization records](#), including:

- checking your belongings for your child's paper record (Child Health Passport)
- checking with your community nurse in the community in which your child was immunized
- checking with the location where your child was immunized (doctor's office, pharmacy, local health unit or school)

Public Health Nurses and your Community Health Nurse help ensure your child and family are up to date with immunizations. You can talk with your Community Health Nurse about immunization records and immunizations at your next visit.

### Why are First Nations schools in community not included?

Before this regulation is put into place in First Nations communities, more discussion needs to happen between the government and First Nations education and health organizations.

Health care providers working in First Nations communities are dedicated to making sure children have access to all immunizations in the provincial program. If your child attends school in a First Nations community, please check their immunization record to make sure they are up to date. If you have any questions or don't have a copy of your child's record, contact your local community health nurse.

### Where can I get more information?

For more information about the Vaccine Status Reporting Regulation, see [ImmunizeBC](#).

For more information about vaccinations, contact your Community Health Nurse.

For the text of the Vaccination Status Reporting Regulation, see [BC Laws](#).