

## Policy 2.2 – Eligibility Criteria for Publicly Funded Vaccine and Biologics

**Purpose:** The purpose of this policy is to provide standards to those administering publicly funded vaccine and biologics on the intended use of products purchased and distributed by the Office of the Chief Medical Officer of Health (OCMOH).

**Preamble:** The Office of the Chief Medical Officer of Health provides vaccines and biologics for use in New Brunswick. The decision of what to purchase and how it is to be used is dependent on a number of factors including but not limited to:

- provincial disease epidemiology
- best evidence to support its use including information from the National Advisory Committee on Immunization (NACI) and the Canadian Immunization Committee (CIC)
- schedules in other jurisdictions and
- available funding.

For the purpose of preventing and controlling the spread of communicable diseases in the population, publicly funded vaccines and biologics in New Brunswick are provided for three general programs:

- routine programs for infants, children and adults
- targeted programs for high-risk individuals and
- for communicable disease follow-up.

**Vaccines and biologics required to meet third-party demands, such as educational, occupational or travel requirements, or for individual clinical care, ARE NOT provided through the publicly funded program.** Vaccines and biologics for these purposes must be obtained through other sources and cannot be purchased from the Central Serum Depot (CSD).

**Vaccines and biologics ARE NOT routinely provided through the publicly funded program to visitors or temporary residents of New Brunswick;** however the eligibility criteria may change based on the circumstances. A risk assessment approach is to be used when making a decision regarding immunization of non-residents (in consultation with the Medical Officer of Health).

**Guiding Principles:** Publicly funded vaccines **may** be provided to non New Brunswick residents as part of:

- **Outbreak/pandemic management:** The vaccination is primarily given in the interest of preventing illness in the community, not necessarily for protection of the individual (e.g. mass vaccination campaign during a pandemic).
- **Contact management:** The vaccination is part of a case/outbreak intervention strategy (e.g. immune-prophylaxis following exposure to a case of meningococcal C meningitis); or post exposure prophylaxis (e.g. rabies post-exposure prophylaxis in which the vaccine needs to be administered at precise intervals).
- **Prevention of communicable diseases in the high risk population:** Immigrants, refugees and other individuals vulnerable arriving in New Brunswick, regardless of residency status.

The eligibility criteria for publicly funded vaccines and biologics in New Brunswick are detailed in Standard 3.3 – *Eligibility Criteria for Publicly Funded Vaccine and Biologics*.

The distribution of vaccines and biologics in New Brunswick occurs through the CSD and a series of sub depots located throughout the province, the details of which can be found in Standard 3.6 – *Vaccine Supply*.

**Policy:** Immunization providers shall use vaccines and biologics provided by the Office of the Chief Medical Officer of Health for routine, high-risk and in communicable disease follow-up as described in Standard 3.3 – *Eligibility Criteria for Publicly Funded Vaccine and Biologics*.

## Procedures/Standards:

1. No fee shall be charged to the recipient for the cost of or the administration of the vaccine and biologics.
2. All vaccine and biologics shall be maintained under cold chain conditions at all times, including transportation. See Standard 3.4 - *Vaccine Storage and Handling*.
3. All publicly funded vaccine and biologics will be administered under the medical directive of a physician licensed to practice in New Brunswick, by a nurse practitioner registered with the Nurses Association of New Brunswick or by a pharmacist certified to immunize in New Brunswick and in accordance with current program direction.
4. All vaccine recipients shall be given a record of their immunization by their provider as per *Reporting and Disease Regulations 2009-136*. Refer to Introduction - Section 1.4 - Legislation and Standard 3.5 - *Recording, Reporting and Releasing Immunization Information*.
5. All those who administer publicly funded vaccine shall report to the Minister as required by the *Reporting and Disease Regulations – 2009-136*. Refer to Introduction - Section 1.4 - Legislation and Standard 3.5 - *Recording, Reporting and Releasing Immunization Information*.