



ORDER OF THE PROVINCIAL HEALTH OFFICER

(Pursuant to section 32 of the *Emergency Medical Assistants Regulation*, B.C. Reg 210/2010)

EMERGENCY MEDICAL ASSISTANTS SARS-CoV-2 IMMUNIZATION ORDER – February 23, 2021

WHEREAS:

- A. On March 17, 2020 I provided notice under section 52 (2) of the *Public Health Act* that the transmission of the infectious agent SARS-CoV-2, which has caused cases and outbreaks of a serious illness known as COVID-19 among the population of the Province of British Columbia, constitutes a regional event as defined in section 51 of the *Public Health Act* (the “**Emergency**”);
- B. Immunization against the infection SARS-CoV-2 includes one or more of the activities set out in column B of Appendix A (each an “**Immunization Activity**”);
- C. I am of the opinion that:
- (i) the operation of the *Emergency Medical Assistants Regulation* is adversely affecting the timely delivery of the Immunization Activity, the scope of Immunization Activities that can be delivered, and the efficient and effective use of health human resources, throughout British Columbia, and
 - (ii) Emergency Medical Assistants (EMAs) with the license categories set out in column A of Appendix A may perform the Immunization Activity, as authorized by this order, without undue risk to the health or safety of the patient or any other person; and
- D. For the purposes of applying this order to a particular Immunizing EMA:
- (i) the authorized Immunization Activities are specifically set out in the entry in column B of Appendix A that corresponds to the EMA’s license category,
 - (ii) for greater certainty, the authorized Immunization Activities specifically exclude the services (if any) set out in the entry in column C of Appendix A that corresponds to the EMA’s license category,
 - (iii) the applicable mandatory training (the “**Mandatory Training**”) is set out in the entry in column D of Appendix A that corresponds to the Immunizing EMA’s license category and the corresponding entries of Appendix B.

I, Dr. Bonnie Henry, Provincial Health Officer, order that notwithstanding any requirements set out in the *Emergency Medical Assistants Regulation* that conflict or may conflict with this order, an EMA is authorized to perform the Immunization Activity, subject to the following conditions:

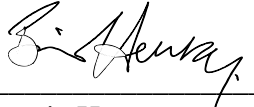
1. The Immunization Activity must be performed in the course of providing a SARS-CoV-2 immunization program approved by a medical health officer with responsibility for the geographic area in which the activity is performed.
2. The Immunization Activity must be conducted in accordance with the resources issued by the BC Centre for Disease Control (the “**Resources**”) posted at the following website:

<http://www.bccdc.ca/health-info/diseases-conditions/covid-19/covid-19-vaccine/resources-for-health-professionals>

3. The EMA must complete all Mandatory Training before performing any Immunization Activities.
4. The EMA must be supervised by a registrant who is authorized under a health profession regulation, and competent, to perform the Immunization Activity.
5. The EMA’s employer or a medical health officer must first assess the EMA’s competence to perform the Immunization Activity in a manner that is safe for both the patient and the EMA, including by requiring the EMA to demonstrate knowledge and skill, in accordance with the Resources, respecting the Immunization Activity. The EMA’s employer may only make this assessment if the employer is a registrant, or is acting on the advice of a registrant authorized under the *Health Professions Act* and competent to perform the Immunization Activity who has assessed the EMA.

Unless rescinded earlier, this order will end on the date that I provide notice under section 59 (b) of the *Public Health Act* that the Emergency has passed.

DATE: **February 23, 2021**

SIGNED: 

Bonnie Henry
MD, MPH, FRCPC
Provincial Health Officer

Appendix A: Immunization Activity, Limitations and Mandatory Training

Column A: Licence Category	Column B: Authorized Immunization Activities:	Column C: Services specifically <u>excluded from the authorized Immunization Activity:</u>	Column D: Mandatory Training (refer to the letters in Appendix B, Column A for information on the training resource)
Critical Care Paramedic, Advanced Care Paramedic, Primary Care Paramedic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Administering an injection of a COVID-19 vaccine; a. Post-immunization monitoring of the patient, including monitoring for adverse events (i.e. anaphylaxis), situation assessment and treatment of adverse events. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Initial patient assessment, including review of patient assessment forms to determine suitability of a patient for immunization and obtaining patient consent; b. Preparation of vaccines, including the drawing of doses from a vial. 	C1, D, F, G, H
Emergency Medical Responder, Emergency Medical Assistant First Responder	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Administering an injection of a COVID-19 vaccine; 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Initial patient assessment, including review of patient assessment forms to determine suitability of a patient for immunization and obtaining patient consent; b. Preparation of vaccines, including the drawing of doses from a vial; c. Post-immunization monitoring of the patient, including monitoring for adverse events (i.e. anaphylaxis), situation assessment and treatment of adverse events. 	A, B, C1, D

Appendix B: Training Materials

Column A: Training	Column B: Resources	Column C: Link to Materials
A	Elsevier Clinical Skills – Intramuscular Injections (*eliminate pediatric content and test)	Course content equivalent to: https://point-of-care.elsevierperformancemanager.com/
B	In-person education and clinical lab training to perform intramuscular injections as per the BC Centre for Disease Control’s – Immunization Skills Checklist	http://www.bccdc.ca/resource-gallery/Documents/Guidelines and Forms/Guidelines and Manuals/Immunization/Vaccine Info/IMMUNIZATION_SKILLS_CHECKLIST.pdf
C1	BC Centre for Disease Control’s – Immunization Competency Course This course includes the BC Centre for Disease Control’s – Informed Consent for Immunization component	http://www.bccdc.ca/health-professionals/education-development/immunization-courses/immunization-competency-course
C2	BC Centre for Disease Control’s COVID-19 Immunization Competency Course for Nurses (RNs, RPNs, LPNs)	http://www.bccdc.ca/health-professionals/education-development/immunization-courses/covid-19-immunization-competency-course-for-nurses-(rns-rpns-lpns)
D	BCCDC COVID-19 Immunization Webinars	https://learninghub.phsa.ca/Courses/24764/curriculum-bccdc-covid-19-immunization-webinars

Column A: Training	Column B: Resources	Column C: Link to Materials
E	BC Centre for Disease Control's – Communicable Disease Control Manual: Anaphylaxis Management in Non-Hospital Setting course OR Anaphylaxis Initial Emergency Treatment By Nurses Adult Pediatric	http://www.bccdc.ca/resource-gallery/Documents/Guidelines%20and%20Forms/Guidelines%20and%20Manuals/Epid/CD%20Manual/Chapter%202%20-%20Imms/Part_3_Anaphylaxis.pdf OR Anaphylaxis Initial Emergency Treatment By Nurses Adult Pediatric
F	Dry Ice Handling Safety Training course	https://learninghub.phsa.ca/Courses/24530/dry-ice-handling-safety-training
G	Vaccine Storage and Handling course	http://www.bccdc.ca/health-professionals/education-development/immunization-courses/vaccine-storage-and-handling-course
H	Immunization Communication Module	https://learninghub.phsa.ca/Courses/19653/immunization-communication-module