

Fact Sheet: Administering Vaccinations

Each year, the College of Nursing of New Brunswick (CNNB) receives queries from registered nurses and nurse practitioners (RNs/NPs)¹ regarding vaccination. This fact sheet outlines requirements and considerations for RNs/NPs who administer vaccines.

CNNB recognizes that [safe](#), [competent](#), [compassionate](#) and [ethical](#) vaccine administration is important for protecting the public and maintaining trust in provincial immunization programs. Obtaining [informed consent](#); preparing, administering, storing, and handling vaccines; managing side effects and emergencies; reporting adverse events; maintaining accurate documentation; and ensuring safe disposal are key responsibilities for which RNs/NPs are [accountable](#) when administering vaccines.

RNs/NPs who administer vaccines must practice in accordance with the [New Brunswick Immunization Program Guide](#) (NBIPG), the [Canadian Immunization Guide](#), the [Immunization practice standards in New Brunswick](#), their individual [scope of practice](#)² and organizational policies on vaccination. Whether in the context of individual [client](#) immunization or mass immunization programs, RNs/NPs must ensure that they have the authorization and requisite knowledge, skill, and judgment to support [safe](#) vaccination practices.

RNs/NPs remain accountable to the [Code of Conduct for Registered Nurses and Nurse Practitioners](#), and the [Standards for Medication Management](#) when administering vaccines. RNs/NPs are accountable for integrating immunization assessment into routine client care to support protection against vaccine-preventable diseases (Public Health Agency of Canada, 2026). RNs/NPs must also ensure that they meet the following requirements when administering vaccines:

- attain and maintain the competencies required for immunization practice through appropriate education and training (such as the [Education Program for Immunization Competencies](#)); practice in accordance with the [NBIPG](#);
- have a client-specific prescription or [directive](#)³ from an [authorized prescriber](#) to administer the vaccine and for any medications required for managing possible side effects (GNB, n.d.);
- obtain and record [informed consent](#) for vaccination, manage refusal or withdrawal of [consent](#) as required; refer to the following resources for additional information: [Fact Sheet: Consent](#) and the NBIPG [Program standards: Consent](#);

¹ The CNNB is responsible for regulating registered nurses, graduate nurses, nurse practitioners and graduate nurse practitioners in New Brunswick, as such the abbreviation “RNs/NPs” is used in this document and refers to all aforementioned designations. Licensed practical nurses in New Brunswick are regulated by the Association of New Brunswick Licensed Practical Nurses.

²[Practice Guideline: Scope of Practice](#)

³[Fact Sheet: Directive](#)



- document in accordance with the [Standards for Documentation](#) and remain knowledgeable about the information to be documented on an immunization record;
- maintain a [safe](#) environment for vaccine administration, including proper hand hygiene, prevention of needle stick injury, proper sharps disposal, and maintaining [client safety](#) by properly positioning the vaccine recipient, and having the appropriate equipment and identifying environmental hazards prior to administration (GNB, n.d.);
- [report adverse events](#) following vaccination in accordance with the reporting requirements outlined in the [NBIPG](#);
- maintain competence in [anaphylaxis management](#); and
- maintain an inclusive and [culturally safe](#) vaccination environment in accordance with the [Standards for Cultural Safety](#).

For questions on vaccine administration, please contact a Nurse Consultant at Consultation@cnnb-opinb.ca.

References

- Government of New Brunswick. (n.d.). *Immunization practice standards in New Brunswick*.
<https://www.gnb.ca/en/topic/health-wellness/info-health-professional/nb-immunization-guide.html>
- Public Health Agency of Canada. (2026). *Canadian immunization guide*.
<https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/canadian-immunization-guide.html>