

Policy 2.11 - Populations Requiring Special Consideration

Purpose: The purpose of this policy is to provide standards to those who provide publicly funded vaccines to individuals in New Brunswick requiring special consideration prior to immunization.

Preamble: Immunizers need to recognize and respond to the unique immunization needs of certain population groups. The *New Brunswick Routine Immunization Schedule* used in conjunction with the Eligibility Criteria adapts to meet the needs of specific populations within the context of the New Brunswick Immunization Program.

Although National Advisory Committee on Immunization (NACI) may make recommendations for these groups, each jurisdiction makes its own decisions with respect to funding. Immunization providers should be aware of those who provide vaccine outside of the publicly funded programs and, in particular, to the support provided by Citizenship and Immigration Canada (CIC) (<http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/index.asp>); travel health clinics; and occupational health clinics.

NACI identifies the following as special population groups:

- individuals with certain medical conditions that include the presence of risk factors for vaccine preventable disease or carry the risk of serious complication should the disease occur;
- individuals who are behind on their immunization;
- individuals who have had a serious adverse event following a previous vaccine;
- outbreak populations;
- pregnant and breastfeeding women;
- individuals with behaviours that put them at risk for vaccine preventable disease;
- hard-to-reach individuals;
- individuals new to Canada;
- travellers; and
- persons in occupational risk groups who may be at increased risk of particular vaccine preventable diseases or who if not immunized themselves, may put vulnerable clients/patients at risk.

The New Brunswick Immunization Program does not provide vaccines and biologics for third-party demands such as educational, occupational or travel requirements.

Policy: Providers of publicly funded vaccine will provide vaccine and biologics to those requiring special consideration as set out by the policies in the New Brunswick Immunization Program.

Standards:

1. The *New Brunswick Routine Immunization Schedule* is the standard to be followed when providing routine immunization to infants, children and adults in New Brunswick.
2. In addition to the routine program for infants, children and adults, vaccines are provided for targeted programs and in the follow-up of vaccine preventable diseases. The *Eligibility Criteria for Publicly Funded Vaccines/Biologics* is in Standard 3.3 of the New Brunswick Immunization Program Guide. Vaccines are to be used only as outlined in this document.
3. In instances where the *New Brunswick Routine Immunization Schedule* cannot be followed **and** additional scheduling information is required, immunizers should refer to:
 - The Canadian Immunization Guide; and
 - NACI statements as outlined in the Public Health Agency of Canada website: www.phac-aspc.gc.ca.
4. Additional information about CIC programs can be obtained from local Public Health offices.
5. Immunizers should consult the product monograph for additional information about product safety in reference to particular population groups.