

## **6.0 Nunavut Immunization Certification**

### **Preamble**

As per the Canadian Immunization Guide (CIG), all vaccine providers should receive education and competency-based training on vaccine administration before providing vaccines to the public. Therefore, all Nunavut nurses, students, and midwives who give immunizations and/or perform tuberculosis skin tests (TST) will need to complete the Nunavut Immunization Exam before giving any unsupervised immunizations or TSTs.

Although many nurses or midwives might not administer the full array of vaccines as part of their regular practice, they will need the requisite knowledge and skill base to answer questions regarding vaccines and immunization schedules. As well, all vaccine providers should be prepared to assist with any mass immunization clinics in the event of a pandemic, health emergency, or as part of annual influenza activities.

### **Goal**

To provide an ongoing, standardized educational guide for all immunizers involved in the administration of immunizations and TB skin tests, in accordance with the Nunavut policies and procedures, the Nunavut Immunization Schedules, the National Advisory Committee on Immunization (NACI) and the current Canadian Immunization Guide (CIG).

### **Objectives**

On completion of the Nunavut Immunization Certification and skills checklist process, vaccine providers will be able to:

1. Define terms related to immunization and immunity.
2. Define how to safely handle and store vaccines.
3. Provide correct vaccine related information to clients enabling them to make informed decisions.
4. Demonstrate knowledge of the current Nunavut Routine Immunization Schedules.
5. Demonstrate appropriate vaccine related skills and knowledge base including:
  - Patient education and informed consent including risks/benefits of vaccines.
  - Recommended indication, route, site, dosage and person as per current Nunavut Immunization Schedules.
  - Knowledge of vaccines, contraindications, precautions, potential side effects and adverse events.
  - Correct vaccine administration techniques including tuberculin skin tests (TST).
  - Management and reporting of vaccine errors or events.

## **Process for Nunavut Immunization Certification**

- 1. *Successful certification is required of all those providing immunization in Nunavut.***
2. Your Manager or Supervisor will provide you with a copy of the Nunavut Immunization Certification Exam and the Skills Checklist.
3. Nunavut Immunization Certification must be completed within 4-6 weeks of commencing employment and before providing any unsupervised immunizations. Recertification is required every 2 years.
4. Fax, scan or email your completed immunization exam answer sheet with full contact details to the appropriate exam marker for your region (see below). The exam markers have the responsibility to certify immunization providers and maintain a record of individuals certified. Supervisors/Managers have the responsibility to ensure that all immunization providers are certified to give immunizations.
5. The exam can be completed by following the current Canadian Immunization Guide (CIG), the Nunavut Immunization Manual, and vaccine inserts or product monographs. These resources are to assist you in ongoing best practice in vaccine administration. You are expected to utilize these resources when administering any immunizations in Nunavut to ensure competent and safe practice.
6. The exam marker or your direct supervisor will inform you of your score. You must achieve a 90% on the multiple-choice questions to pass. If you score less than 90%, you will need to redo all incorrect answers and indicate where the information is found. All errors in the exam should be reviewed with your exam-marking mentor.
7. Correct vaccine related skills must be demonstrated once you have successfully completed the exam. All new or recertifying immunizers must complete the skills checklist.
8. When the Immunization Exam and Skills Checklist has been successfully completed, you will be notified and receive your Nunavut Immunization Certificate.

## Designated Exam Markers by Region

### **Kitikmeot Region**

Regional Communicable Disease Coordinator  
PO Box 83, Cambridge Bay, NU X0B 0C0  
Phone: 867-983-4082  
Confidential Fax: 867-983-4088

### **Kivalliq Region**

Manager of Clinical Nurse Education  
P.O. Bag 298, Rankin Inlet, NU X0C 0G0  
Phone: 867-645-2171  
Fax: 867-645-2409

### **Qikiqtaaluk Region**

Clinical Supervisor of Community Health Nurses  
P.O. Box 304, Pangnirtung, NU X0A 0R0  
Fax 867-473-2657  
Telephone: 867-473-2627

### **Iqaluit Public Health**

Manager of Public Health  
Iqaluit Public Health  
P.O. Box 1000, Station 1031, Iqaluit, NU X0A 0H0  
Telephone: 867-975-4800  
Fax: 867-975-4830

### **Qikiqtani General Hospital (QGH)**

ER Nurse Manager  
Qikiqtani General Hospital  
Box 1000, Station 1021  
Iqaluit, NU, X0A 0H0  
Telephone: 867-975-8600

Clinical Nurse Educator  
Qikiqtani General Hospital  
Box 1000, Station 1021  
Iqaluit, NU, X0A 0H0  
Telephone: 867-975-8600