

## COVID 19 Policy #7

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### Vaccination Guidelines

#### Purpose:

To ensure that all members of the Calgary Quest Children's Society are well informed of the benefits of vaccinations for their personal health and health of others in our community.

#### Application:

This policy applies to all students, participants, teachers, instructional assistants, staff, visitors, volunteers, and directors.

#### Definitions:

1. **Vaccinations:** are an important form of primary care prevention which means they can protect people from getting sick. Vaccinations have allowed us to control diseases that once threatened many lives, such as:
  - a. Measles
  - b. Polio
  - c. Tetanus
  - d. Whooping Cough
  - e. Smallpox
2. **Immunization** is the process whereby a person is made immune or resistant to an infectious disease, typically by the administration of a vaccine. Vaccines stimulate the body's own immune system to protect the person against subsequent infection or disease.

#### Procedures:

1. **Immunizations and how they protect our community.**
  - a. Immunization is effective. Other than providing safe drinking water, no other health intervention works as well as immunization to reduce disease and death rates. Immunization protects whole communities. The more people who are fully immunized in a community, the safer everyone is.
2. **The importance and benefits of Vaccinations.**
  - a. Vaccinations protect children from serious illness and complications of vaccine-preventable diseases which can include amputation of an arm or leg, paralysis of limbs, hearing loss, convulsions, brain damage, and death. Vaccine-preventable diseases, such as Measles, Mumps, and Whooping Cough, are still a threat.

- b. Vaccination protects others you care about, including family members, friends, and grandparents.
- c. Immunization is a simple and effective way of protecting yourself and your family. Immunization works by triggering the immune system to fight against certain diseases. If a vaccinated person encounters these diseases, their immune system is able to respond more effectively.

### 3. Where to get vaccinated.

- a. In Alberta, your child will be immunized by Alberta Health Services (AHS) at your local AHS Public Health Office or AHS Community Health Centre.

### 4. Not sure where the closest Public Health Office or Community Health Centre is?

- b. Dial [811](tel:811) for Health Link, and the registered nurse who answers your call will help you find the location closest to you.
- c. The Alberta government has developed an online booking program for COVID vaccinations <https://www.albertahealthservices.ca/topics/Page17349.aspx#:~:text=How%20to%20book%3A%20%E2%80%A2,book%20a%20second%20dose>.

### 5. COVID-19 vaccination update.

- a. Currently, there are four vaccines that have been approved in Canada. Calgary Quest Children's Society strongly recommends the complete vaccination of all eligible students, staff, and parents. COVID vaccinations provide strong defence against negative health outcomes due to covid and are the best defence in reducing the ongoing infection rates in Alberta. In addition, vaccinations are strongly recommended in environment servicing and working with vulnerable populations.

**References: Current as of 23/08/2021 based on the most recent guidance from regulatory authorities.**

<https://www.albertahealthservices.ca/findhealth/Service.aspx?id=5823&serviceAtFacilityID=1077584>

<https://www.albertahealthservices.ca/topics/Page17349.aspx#:~:text=How%20to%20book%3A%20%E2%80%A2,book%20a%20second%20dose>.

<https://immunizealberta.ca/i-want-immunize/where-immunize>

<https://open.alberta.ca/publications/alberta-covid-19-immunization-policy>

<https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/drugs-health-products/covid19-clinical-trials.html>

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