

Communicable Disease, Immunization and Tuberculosis (TB) Screening Policy Frequently Asked Questions

June 2026

1. What is the purpose of the Health PEI Communicable Disease, Immunization and Tuberculosis (TB) Screening Policy?

The purpose of this policy is to reduce the risk of acquiring and transmitting communicable diseases, including TB, by ensuring Health PEI Healthcare Workers (HCWs) participate in immunization and TB screening programs that protect HCWs, patients, clients, residents, and the public.

2. Who does this policy apply to?

This policy applies to all Health PEI HCWs, including all employees (casual, permanent, temporary, full-time, and part-time employees), and physicians (salaried, fee-for-service, contract, and locum). It does not apply to patients or visitors.

3. Are HCWs required to participate in the Health PEI HCW Immunization and TB Screening Program?

Yes, the Health PEI HCW Immunization and TB Screening Program applies to all staff and physicians, at no cost.

4. Which guidelines do the Health PEI HCW Immunization and TB Screening Program follow?

The program follows:

- a) Canadian Immunization Guide (CIG)
- b) Canadian Tuberculosis Standards
- c) National Advisory Committee on Immunization (NACI) statements

5. What immunizations and screenings are included in the Health PEI HCW Immunization and TB Screening Program?

- Baseline TB screening
- COVID-19 vaccine
- Hepatitis B
- Influenza vaccine
- Measles, Mumps, and Rubella (MMR)
- Meningococcal vaccine for employees at occupational risk
- Polio vaccine
- Tetanus-diphtheria-pertussis
- Varicella (chickenpox)

6. HCW Responsibilities:

- Meet with Employee Health to review immunization and TB screening status.
- Provide documentation of immunizations and TB screening when requested.
- Submit proof of influenza or COVID-19 vaccination if received outside the workplace.
- Follow recommended guidance if additional immunization or screening is required.

7. What if a HCW declines immunization or TB Screening?

HCWs who decline to participate in the program will meet with an EHN to review the risks of not being immunized or screened, including that declining baseline TB screening may delay follow-up if exposed to active TB. After this discussion, HCWs are required to sign the appropriate Acknowledgement of Refusal form(s).

8. What if a HCW is involved in an exposure and is not up to date with immunizations?

Depending on the risk and communicable disease guidelines, work restrictions or administrative leave may be required.

9. HPEI Leader responsibilities:

- Support staff understanding of the Health PEI HCW Immunization and TB Screening Program, with emphasis on HCW responsibilities as outlined above in item 6: HCW Responsibilities.
- Direct staff to connect with Employee Health at key points, including at hire, when transitioning to a new role, following an exposure to a communicable disease, and when additional information would be helpful, including program risks and benefits.
- Reinforce the importance of timely submission of external vaccine documentation.
- Support adherence to any work restrictions indicated by Employee Health.

10. EHN responsibilities:

- Review immunization and TB records
- Educate HCWs on vaccines and TB screening
- Administer vaccines and TB tests
- Report on immunizations and adverse events
- Maintain documentation in PeopleSoft and employee health charts
- Report positive TB tests
- Ensure proper vaccine storage and supply