

March 5, 2021

Reporting Adverse Events Following Immunization (AEFI)

COVID-19 vaccines can help move us out of this pandemic. And as more people are getting vaccinated against COVID-19, healthcare practitioners need to report adverse events to Toronto Public Health.

An AEFI is any event or reaction that occurs after receiving a vaccine. A causal relationship does not need to be proven before reporting. Common side effects generally do not need to be reported to Toronto Public Health. Any fever after vaccination should be monitored.

1. Use the *new* [AEFI Reporting Form](#).
2. Fax the completed form to **416-696-3492** or email to AEFI@toronto.ca
3. [Public Health Ontario resource](#) on types of adverse events to report.

Report an AEFI when there is:

- allergic reactions
- fever greater than 40°C
- severe vomiting, diarrhea or headache
- severe reactions requiring urgent medical attention or hospitalization
- reactions that did not resolve after a few days
- reactions that are not part of the common side effects
- any unexpected reaction in terms of type or frequency

Common side effects of the vaccine may appear 1-3 days after vaccination:

- pain, redness, & swelling at the injection site
- headache, fatigue, fever and/or chills
- muscle aches, joint pain

Side effects usually resolve on their own within a few days. Over-the-counter medications can be used to relieve symptoms, if required. **Note:** Some side effects, including fever, are more frequent after the second dose of mRNA vaccines; but not with the AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine.