

March 29, 2021

TO: Medical Health Officers
Public Health Nurse Managers
Immunization Coordinators
Drug Plan and Extended Benefits Branch
Saskatchewan Coroners Service - Chief Coroner

Re: Reporting of Deaths Within 30 Days of Immunization as Adverse Events Following Immunization

Dear Colleagues:

In Saskatchewan, a death occurring within 30 days following immunization is not reportable as an adverse event following immunization (AEFI) if the death is confirmed by a physician/Medical Health Officer as being attributed to a cause unrelated to the vaccine. For example, a death that is expected due to palliative care or attributable to an underlying chronic health condition (such as cardiac or kidney disease) is not a reportable AEFI at the local and provincial levels.

With the exception of the above, immediately report deaths occurring within 30 days following immunization to the Ministry of Health. The Ministry is required to report these deaths to the Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC). The physician/MHO will report deaths that cannot be attributed to a cause unrelated to the vaccine to the Saskatchewan Coroners Service who will investigate and determine cause of death. If the death is attributable to the vaccination, the Ministry of Health must be advised and will follow up with PHAC.

If a physician is unsure about a vaccine being attributable to a death, they should consult with the local Medical Health Officer.

Please share this letter with healthcare partners as appropriate.

Sincerely,



Dr. Saqib Shahab
Chief Medical Health Officer

