



Public Health Update: Adverse Events Following Immunisation (AEFI)

Changes to Tasmanian Reporting in 2021

What's New?

From March 1st 2021 Adverse Events Following Immunisation (AEFI) reports can be made to Communicable Diseases Prevention Unit in Public Health Services. Previously Tasmanian vaccine providers, healthcare professionals and the public reported AEFI directly to the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA). It is still possible to report directly to the TGA, however as in other states and territories it is preferred that reports are made directly to the Communicable Diseases Prevention Unit. AEFI reports received by Public Health Services will still be forwarded to the TGA.

Why Has It Changed?

Reporting AEFI to the Communicable Diseases Prevention Unit has the benefits of;

- Monitoring rates of AEFI in Tasmania in real-time at a local level, and allowing early investigation of potential safety issues with a vaccine
- Strengthening engagement of the Communicable Diseases Prevention Unit with local vaccine providers and the public, enabling response to any concerns in a timely manner
- Detecting and assisting in responding to errors related to vaccine administration
- Through the above activities, maintaining vaccine provider and public confidence in vaccines in Tasmania

Which Vaccines Are Included?

AEFI against **all vaccines** in Tasmania may be reported to the Communicable Diseases Prevention Unit. The change to AEFI reporting coincides with the national rollout of the SARS-CoV-2 (COVID-19) vaccine. Reporting of adverse events related to this vaccine is an important part of the mass vaccination campaign, and real-time monitoring of AEFI rates is desirable. However, the benefits of local AEFI reporting exist for all vaccines, and we encourage reporting of any AEFI for any vaccine.

How Do I Report AEFI?

If you are a member of the public, we recommend that you see your regular GP or healthcare provider for a check-up of your symptoms, and they can assist you with reporting the adverse event.

If you are a healthcare provider, you may report AEFI by completing the *Adverse Events Following Immunisation Reporting Form* which is found on the websites below:

- www.health.tas.gov.au/publichealth/communicable_diseases_prevention_unit/immunisation/reporting_adverse_events_following_immunisation
- www.coronavirus.tas.gov.au/vaccination-information/covid-19-vaccination/getting-vaccinated

You may submit the completed form via;

- Email to tas.aefi@health.tas.gov.au (preferred)
- Fax to (03) 6173 0821

Contacts for Further Information

To discuss AEFI reporting, discuss an adverse event, or request advice regarding referral of patients requiring specialist follow-up after an AEFI, call the Immunisation team via the Public Health Hotline on **1800 671 738**.

Alternatively, you may email your query to tas.aefi@health.tas.gov.au