

Obtaining Mature Minor Consent for Vaccination

May 20, 2021

In British Columbia, the Infants Act allows a health care provider to provide health care to an individual 18 years of age or younger (a minor) based on consent provided by the minor. It is required that the health care provider is of the opinion that the minor understands the nature and consequences and the reasonably foreseeable benefits and risks of the proposed health care and it is in the best interest of the minor. There is no legal age of consent for health care in BC; a minor's ability to consent depends upon their level of maturity. Mature minor authority takes precedence over parental authority.

CHECKLIST FOR OBTAINING MATURE MINOR CONSENT (MMC) PRIOR TO VACCINATION		
☒	ASSESS CAPABILITY	☒ Assess: language, communication methods, hearing, cognitive abilities ☒ Use clinical judgement • If child does not appear to be able to provide informed MMC consent, consider phoning parent/guardian for verbal consent so child is not denied an immunization opportunity
☒	PROVIDE STANDARD INFORMATION	☒ Consent is obtained for a vaccine series ☒ Provide time for review of HealthLink BC File for vaccine if not done already ☒ Review: • Vaccine protects against COVID-19 illness • Benefits, personal and community • Risk if unvaccinated • Common side effects • Small but important risk of anaphylaxis • Screen for contraindications (anaphylaxis to previous dose of COVID-19 vaccine or any components in vaccine)
☒	CONFIRM UNDERSTANDING OF STANDARD INFORMATION	☒ Assess non-verbal cues ☒ Clarify reasons for silence or refusal to engage in discussion if present ☒ Ask questions to confirm understanding if uncertain
☒	PROVIDE OPPORTUNITY FOR QUESTIONS	☒ Ask, "Do you have any questions?"
☒	CONFIRM CONSENT	☒ Ask, "Are you ready to proceed?"
☒	IMMSBC CONSENT	☒ Select MMC box on ImmsBC to indicate mature minor consent was obtained and document immunization as per typical process

For Further Information on Standards for Informed Consent refer to BCCDC Immunization Manual, Chapter 2, [Section 1B](#).