

Vaccine Safety in Ontario



This is a summary of adverse events following immunization (AEFIs) reported in Ontario following vaccines administered in 2025.

Vaccines are very safe.



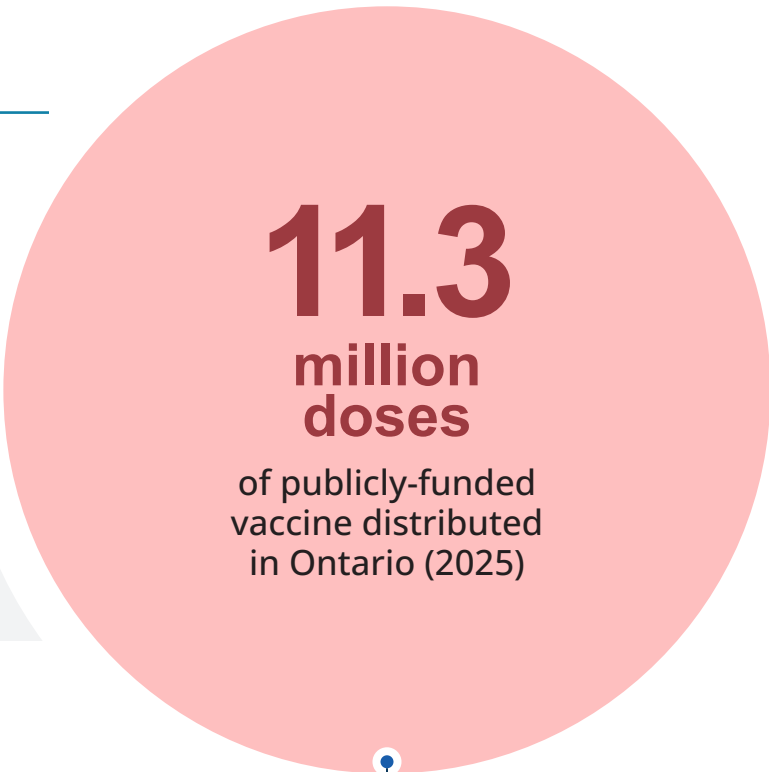
Ontario conducts ongoing monitoring of vaccine safety data in collaboration with local, provincial, territorial, and national partners. Overall, no safety concerns were identified among routine, publicly funded vaccine programs in 2025.

What is an AEFI?

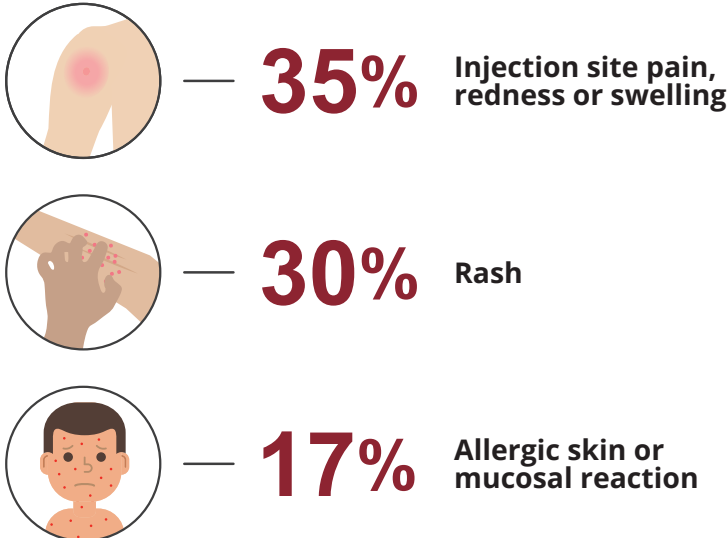
An AEFI is an unwanted or unexpected health effect that happens after someone receives a vaccine, which may or may not be caused by the vaccine.

AEFIs are rare.

In 2025, 0.006% of publicly-funded doses distributed* were associated with a reported AEFI.



The most frequently reported adverse events among the 700 AEFIs reported were:



700 AEFIs reported

96.9% were non-serious

*Dose distribution data are only available for publicly-funded vaccines. For COVID-19 vaccines, the number of doses administered are used.

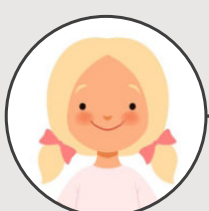
AGE DISTRIBUTION

Infants and children three years and under had the highest AEFI reporting rates.

This may reflect the higher number of vaccines given to children under four years as part of the routine immunization schedule, which creates more opportunities for AEFIs to occur and to be reported to a health care provider.



Infants under one year
29.1 per 100,000 population

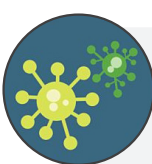


Children aged one to three years
25.0 per 100,000 population

VACCINES

Higher vaccine-specific AEFI reporting rates can be associated with factors such as:

- **population characteristics** (e.g., age)
- **characteristics of the vaccine** (e.g., increased reactogenicity)
- **setting of vaccine administration** (e.g., school-based vaccines with increased opportunities for reporting).



Although Influenza vaccine had the **highest number of AEFI reports** (130), it had the **lowest reporting rate** among publicly-funded vaccines (3.0 per 100,000 doses distributed).

The highest vaccine-specific AEFI reporting rates were:



Shingles vaccine:
31.0 per 100,000



Measles-mumps-rubella vaccine:
27.5 per 100,000



Hepatitis B vaccine:
20.7 per 100,000



Immunization lowers the risk of getting and spreading vaccine-preventable diseases to others.

Vaccination can prevent illness, including acute severe illness, hospitalization, and death, as well as serious and long-term complications from vaccine-preventable diseases.

HOW TO REPORT AN AEFI



- ✓ Vaccine recipients can report AEFIs to their health care provider or local public health unit.
- ✓ Physicians and other health care providers are required to report AEFIs to their local public health unit.
- ✓ For information on how to report an AEFI, please see [AEFI Reporting for Health Care Providers in Ontario](#).
- ✓ For more information on Ontario's vaccine safety system, please see [How vaccine safety is monitored in Ontario](#).

For more information on vaccine safety data in Ontario, please refer to Public Health Ontario's [Immunization Data Tool](#).