

1. Values

An important aspect of the ABWE value of Biblical Family Atmosphere is the care and wellbeing of every person who works or serves with us. Our desire is to maximize the fruitfulness of each missionary by assisting them to optimize their health. Moreover, we honour the biblical principles of family structure and parental authority.

Recognizing the importance of wellness care in optimizing health, we value vaccinations as an integral part of maintaining personal and communal health. Therefore, ABWE Canada recommends that all missionaries and their families have current immunizations as outlined in Healthcare Resources on ABWE Central.

2. Resources

ABWE will advise international missionaries on the importance of vaccinations in preventing avoidable life-threatening illnesses and their effect on communities. Each missionary will assume responsibility for their personal health decisions and those of their dependents. Our doctors and resources are available to assist individuals and families in making decisions regarding vaccinations. A missionary who chooses not to act in accordance with ABWE Canada's Recommended Vaccination List must receive either a medical exemption or submit a waiver signed by themselves and by their sending church.

Vaccination needs vary according to age groups and overseas locations; some countries require certain vaccinations. While the decision not to follow ABWE Canada's Recommended Vaccination List does not preclude missionary service with ABWE Canada, it may shape one's opportunities to serve in certain countries as ABWE Canada is unable to waive the vaccinations requirements of governments.

3. Procedures

During medical evaluation at New Missionary Orientation, the ABWE Medical Director will discuss with each missionary the recommended vaccinations for their desired country of service and waivers required for those who choose not to vaccinate. The ABWE Canada Medical Director will review a missionary's vaccination status at the time of medical clearance before departure and then every five years.

Our Medical Director is available to discuss all vaccination policy questions and vaccination schedule modifications. Some individuals may be medically precluded from receiving certain vaccines; in those cases, the Medical Director will give vaccine specific medical exemptions based on documented medical events.

Missionaries with ABWE International will need to follow ABWE International's Vaccination Policy.