



STATE OF WASHINGTON

BOARD FOR VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS & RESERVE OFFICERS

PO Box 114 • Olympia, WA 98507 • (360) 753-7318 • FAX (360) 586-1987 • Toll Free (877) 753-7318

Website: www.bvff.wa.gov

BVFF & RO Emergency Responder Vaccination Policy

The Board for Volunteer Firefighters and Reserve Officers does not reimburse departments for the cost of routine vaccinations. In addition, the Board does not generally cover volunteers for reactions to non-required routine vaccinations. In order to receive coverage for a reaction, the department must be required to offer, or the volunteer required to take, a vaccination by either the state or federal government for the performance of their duties as an emergency responder. The Board will only consider, on a case by case basis, the coverage of catastrophic reactions to routine vaccinations if:

1. The reaction requires at least a one night's stay in a hospital, or long term intensive treatment that requires on-going treatment and monitoring by a physician, and
2. Departments were expressly encouraged by the Washington State Department of Health or the Federal Center for Disease Control to offer the vaccinations to their emergency responders because of pandemic outbreak concerns where there is a reasonable and widely accepted expectation that responder's lives could be endangered without the vaccination, and
3. The vaccinations were paid for by the department and administered either at the department or at a department sponsored clinic where vaccinations were given as part of the department's wellness program and not available to the general public, and
4. The patient's condition is clearly causally related to the vaccination without any underlying complications or conditions, and
5. The patient, or the patient's physician, register the reaction with the National Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System.

