

March 20, 2007

IN THIS ISSUE:

- **New MOH for Peel**
- **Seniors' Health Report**
- **Update: Student Immunization Records**
- **Pneumococcal Polysaccharide Vaccine Supply Shortage**
- **Release of Pandemic Influenza Plan**

FROM:

Eileen de Villa, MD MBA MHSc CCFP FRCPC
Megan Ward, MD MHSc CCFP FRCPC

Associate Medical Officers of Health

New Medical Officer of Health for Peel

The Region of Peel welcomes Dr. David Mowat as the new Medical Officer of Health. Dr. Mowat, who began his appointment on Feb. 19th, brings an extensive background in Public Health at the federal, provincial and municipal levels, most recently at the Public Health Agency of Canada where he served as Deputy Chief Public Health Officer, Public Health Practice and Regional Operations.

Dr. Mowat will team up with the Region's AMOHs Dr. Eileen de Villa and Dr. Megan Ward.

Seniors' Health Report 2006

If you are a physician with a large proportion of seniors in your practice or if you are involved in strategic planning for this population, the "Seniors' Health Report 2006" will be of interest to you. The report, released on January 18, 2007 provides a comprehensive review of Peel Region's senior population, including a demographic profile, leading causes of morbidity and mortality, lifestyle and health behaviours, and barriers to health.

The report can be accessed from the Region of Peel website at:

<http://www.peelregion.ca/health/health-status-report/seniors-health-report/index.htm>

Update: Student Immunization Records

Peel Public Health is entering the active phase of reviewing immunization records for students attending Peel District and Dufferin-Peel Catholic District elementary schools. The review is to ensure that all records are up-to-date.

The *Immunization of School Pupils Act*, 1990, requires all children attending school in Ontario to be immunized against Tetanus, Diphtheria, Polio, Measles, Mumps and Rubella, unless an exemption has been filed. Students whose immunization records are not up-to-date after several requests from Peel Public Health may face suspension from school.

Increased Requests

For the next three months, you may receive an increased number of requests from your patients for the following services:

- Immunizations
- Medical Exemptions
- Immunization Records (Dates of vaccination)

Providing patients with immunization records for the purposes of avoiding a suspension from school is an insurable service under the *Health Insurance Act*. There should be no charge to patients requesting these records.^{1,2}

Reminder for Patients

When vaccinating your patients, please remind their parents/guardians to report their child's immunizations to Peel Public Health.

For more information about routine immunization screening, please contact **Peel Public Health** at **905-799-7700**.

References

¹ Health Insurance Act; Section 24, Reg. 552

² Ontario Medical Association "Physician's Guide to Third Party and Other Uninsured Services." Jan. 2007 Ed., p. 38

/Page 2

Pneumococcal Polysaccharide Vaccine (PPV) Supply Shortage

There is currently a global shortage of Pneumococcal Polysaccharide Vaccine (PPV), produced by Sanofi Pasteur (Pneumo-23™) and Merck Frosst (Pneumovax 23™). This shortage is expected to continue until August 2007.

The Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care (MOHLTC) is requiring that PPV be restricted to those at greatest risk of invasive pneumococcal disease only, including persons with:

- Chronic heart or lung disease
- Cirrhosis or alcoholism
- Chronic renal disease or nephrotic syndrome
- Diabetes mellitus
- Sickle cell disease, congenital or acquired asplenia, or splenic dysfunction
- Chronic cerebrospinal fluid leak
- HIV infection
- Other conditions associated with immunosuppression
- Cochlear implant recipients (pre/post implant)

Vaccination for all other individuals should be postponed until we have advised that vaccine supply has been restored.

How to order PPV

Call the Peel Public Health Vaccine Order Desk at **(905) 791-7800** ext. **6404** to order doses of PPV.

Release of the Pandemic Influenza Plan for the Health Sector in Peel

Peel Public Health has released “*The Pandemic Influenza Plan for the Health Sector in Peel 2007*”. The document outlines roles and responsibilities of health-care organizations in Peel, including surveillance, public health measures, communications and logistics for anti-viral and mass immunization activities. The report is available on the Region of Peel website at:

<http://www.peelregion.ca/health/pandemic/health-sector-07/index.htm>

An information package including an executive summary, highlighting issues of primary concern to physicians, will be developed and distributed in the spring.

A working group of local health partners is meeting regularly throughout 2007 to plan specifically for the provision of ambulatory care during a pandemic. If you are interested in participating in this group, contact Dr. Megan Ward, Associate Medical Officer of Health at (905)791-7800 ext. 2433.

For additional information, please call Health Line Peel at (905) 799-7700.