

April 5, 2007

IN THIS ISSUE:

- **NEW FORMS: Reporting of Adverse Events Following Immunization (AEFI)**
- **National Immunization Awareness Week : April 22 – 28, 2007**

FROM:

David L. Mowat, MBChB MPH FRCPC
Medical Officer of Health

Reporting of Adverse Events following immunization

In the fall of 2006, the Ministry of Health and Long Term Care (MOHLTC) distributed a new **Adverse Event Following Immunization (AEFI)** reporting form.

Obligation to report:

Under section 38 of the Health Protection and Promotion Act, R.S.O. 1990, a physician, a member of the College of Nurses of Ontario or a member of the Ontario College of Pharmacists must report an AEFI to the Medical Officer of Health **within seven days** that the reportable event is recognized.

An investigation of the AEFI is completed by the local public health unit and findings are forwarded to the MOHLTC. This data are then collected by the Public Health Agency of Canada which stores the data in the Canadian Adverse Events Following Immunization (CAEFI) database. This information is used to signal adverse events requiring more in-depth investigation (e.g. a cluster of AEFIs linked to one particular lot number of a vaccine).

AEFIs that should be reported:

- persistent crying or screaming, anaphylaxis or anaphylactic shock occurring within 48 hours after the administration of an immunizing agent,
- shock-like collapse, high fever or convulsions occurring within three days after the administration of an immunizing agent,
- arthritis occurring within 42 days after the administration of an immunizing agent,
- generalized urticaria, residual seizure disorder, encephalopathy, encephalitis or any other significant occurrence occurring within

15 days after the administration of an immunizing agent, or

- death.

Please report all AEFIs to Peel Public Health by completing the form and forwarding the information by phone or fax.

- **Phone: (905) 799-7700**
- **Fax: (905) 458-9217**

Obtaining AEFI reporting form:

Visit the Peel Public Health website at:

<http://www.peelregion.ca/flu/downloads/2006-pdfs/2006-ontario-ae-fi-form.pdf>

For further information regarding AEFIs, please refer to The Canadian Immunization Guide (CIG) 7th edition pages 59 - 72 or call Peel Public Health at (905) 799 7700.

National Immunization Awareness Week

Peel Public Health is celebrating **National Immunization Awareness Week** from April 22nd to 28th, 2007. For 2007, Peel Public Health is focusing on vaccine safety, immunization for adults and new entrants to Canada. New promotional materials will be distributed to physicians in an upcoming mail-out.