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FROM:

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Mumps vaccine recommended for Nova Scotia bound students

- Nova Scotia is in the midst of its third outbreak of mumps since 2005. The majority of mumps cases have been in young adults with almost 40% being university students.
- As of August 10, 2007 there were 15 confirmed cases of mumps in Ontario. Of those confirmed 65% had received 1 MMR, and an additional 20% had no MMR vaccination information.
- **All students returning to university in Nova Scotia this fall who have not had 2 doses of MMR vaccine should be vaccinated prior to returning.** Please advise your patients accordingly.
- For students who are missed, the Nova Scotia Department of Health Promotion and Protection has started a MMR vaccine program for all students attending university or college in Nova Scotia in response to the mumps outbreak.

New Publicly Funded Human Papillomavirus (HPV) program

- On August 2, 2007, the MOHLTC announced free HPV immunization for grade 8 females to be delivered through school-based clinics.
- Peel Public Health will begin the voluntary HPV immunization program in schools this fall. **There will be no catch-up program and 'eligibility per perpetuity' does not apply to this vaccine.**

- Girls not in grade 8 and those who do not wish to receive the vaccine in a school-based clinic may access the vaccine through their family physician by prescription. **There will be a cost for any dose of vaccine not distributed by Peel Public Health for the publicly funded school program.** To date, there is no plan by the MOHLTC to release publicly funded vaccine to physicians. Any changes will be communicated in future updates.
- Although the vaccine provides protection against HPV, it is not a replacement for cervical cancer screening. Regular cervical cancer screening through PAP tests, combined with the vaccine, provide the best protection against cervical cancer.
- In addition to the new HPV grade 8 program for females, Peel Public Health will continue to offer grade 7 hepatitis B and meningitis C immunization clinics at schools.
- Peel Public health is also recommending annual influenza vaccination for students.

Immunization for School-Aged Children

As students prepare for a new school year, parents are reminded of the importance of updating/maintaining their child's immunization status. Students missing the age appropriate immunizations may be suspended from school until they provide proof of immunization or provide a valid exemption to Peel Public Health.

- When you immunize school-aged children please remind their parents to call Peel Public Health at 905-799-7700 to update their children's records.
- Under the Immunization of School Pupils Act (1990), students under the age of 18 years must be immunized against *Diphtheria, Tetanus, Polio, Measles, Mumps and Rubella*.
- Between the ages of 14 and 16 years, students require a booster against tetanus and diphtheria. Peel Public Health recommends that physicians administer the diphtheria, tetanus and pertussis vaccine (dTap or Adacel), as the proportion of pertussis cases in Canadian adolescents has increased from 9.6% in 1995, to 31.3% in 2004.¹ Although pertussis is not a mandatory vaccine, it is publicly funded for this age group.

Fast Facts on Pediculosis

- Treat live lice found on a child's head.
- It is not necessary for parents to remove nits between treatments or if found in the hair without live lice. The presence of nits close to the scalp does not always indicate a live infestation.²
- Advise parents to do a follow-up treatment 7 days after the first treatment. This kills any nymphs which hatch from viable nits after the first treatment.
- Peel Health supports schools by providing fact sheets and health education to school administration and parents. For more information, call Peel Health at 905-799-7700.
- To assist with prevention, it is important for parents to make a habit of checking the hair of their child(ren) once per week for the presence of live lice, particularly after attending sleep over events or camps.

Further information can be found at:

- Canadian Paediatric Society:
<http://www.cps.ca/english/statements/ID/ID04-02.htm> (Position Statement),
<http://www.caringforkids.cps.ca/whensick/HeadLice.htm> (Parent website)
- American Academy of Pediatrics:
<http://aappolicy.aappublications.org/cgi/repint/pediatrics;110/3/638.pdf> (Clinical Report)
- Harvard School of Public Health:
<http://www.hsph.harvard.edu/headlice.html>

Childhood Obesity Prevention: New Resources for Physicians

Resource packages contain tools and supporting information for physicians to use with pediatric patients and their families. Resources include:

- **Childhood Obesity Resource Guide for Health Professionals** – outlines prevention and treatment programs and services that are available locally
- **How Healthy are Your Kids? Parent Quiz** – contains self-directed questions and answers related to the contributing factors of childhood obesity
- **Referral Pad** – directs families to call Peel Public Health for further health education and additional resources

Call 905-799-7700 to request packages and/or an orientation to these resources.

¹ CIG, 2006

² Canadian Paediatric Society, 2004