

September 28, 2007

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FROM:

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

Fall 2007 Update: Student Immunization Records

Background

- The Immunization of School Pupils Act, 1990 requires all children under 18, attending school in Ontario, to be immunized against diphtheria, tetanus, polio, measles, mumps, and rubella unless an exemption has been filed.
- Peel Public Health is required by law to maintain and assess records of immunization for all school-aged children.
- Students whose immunization records are not up-to-date after several requests from Peel Public Health may face suspension from school.

Peel Public Health Student Immunization Risk Mitigation Plan

- A review of student immunization records completed in June 2007 revealed:
 - 45% of student immunization records are not up-to-date; and
 - 15% of students do not have the required immunizations.
- Coverage rates of at least 95% are required to mitigate the risk of outbreaks.
- Peel Public Health will review and update the immunization records of all students beginning with 65 Peel District School Board (PDSB) schools on September 28, 2007. The review will continue with the remaining schools in the PDSB and Dufferin Peel Catholic District School Board in 2008 and 2009.

Physicians should expect increased patient requests for immunization records, immunizations and medical exemptions.

How Physicians can help:

- Ensure that vaccinations are spaced as per the recommendations. **Incorrect spacing of vaccinations is the most common reason that immunizations are deemed incomplete.** Review Catch-Up Schedules at:
www.health.gov.on.ca/english/providers/program/immun/pdf/schedule.pdf.
- Ensure that students immunized according to foreign schedules are up-to-date as per the Ontario schedule. Many foreign vaccination schedules do not meet Canadian requirements. Peel Public Health offers **free translation of immunization records** to all clients 18 years or under, enrolled in either a licensed day nursery or and educational institution within the Region of Peel.
- Remind parents to notify Peel Public Health each time their child receives a vaccination. Most parents are not aware of their obligation to submit immunization records to Peel Public Health.
- **New:** Patients can now update their immunization records on-line. Visit www.immunizepeel.ca.

Medical Exemptions

- Medical exemptions are given when a physician verifies an allergy or previous reaction to vaccine components.

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- Temporary medical exemptions are given when a physician verifies pregnancy or the child is under a specific medical treatment and vaccination should be delayed.
- Please direct parents requiring exemptions for their child to contact Peel Public Health at **905-799-7700**.

FOR PHYSICIANS ONLY:

Call **905-791-7800 ext. 6422 (then press 1)** for direct access to the Immunization Records Team.

Influenza Immunization Update

Peel Public Health will receive the first shipment of influenza vaccine from the Ontario Government Pharmacy mid October, 2007. Physicians will receive a portion of their vaccine order by the end of October. The remaining orders will be filled when stock is replenished.

Reminder: Please offer influenza vaccine to high priority groups first.¹

¹ For a full description of all high-risk groups see the NACI statement on Influenza vaccination for 2007/2008 at:
http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/publicat/ccdr-rmtc/07vol33/acs-07/index_e.html