

<p>IN THIS ISSUE:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NEW: Mumps Catch-Up Program for Post-secondary Students • Reminder: Eligibility Criteria for Menactra™ • Smoke-Free Car Legislation 	<p>FROM: David L. Mowat, MBChB MPH FRCPC Medical Officer of Health</p>
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NEW: Mumps Catch-Up Program for Post-secondary Students

In October 2008, the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care (MOHLTC) announced a mumps catch-up program for all students attending post-secondary educational institutions, including students starting or returning to school outside of Ontario.

Background

- In the past year, large mumps outbreaks have occurred in Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Alberta and British Columbia.
- The proportion of total of cases of mumps in Canada in those 20 years and older has increased from 14% in 1988 -1990 to 64% in 2003-2005.¹
- In 2007, the National Advisory Committee on Immunization (NACI) recommended that all students attending post-secondary institutions have documented receipt of two doses of a mumps-containing vaccine.¹

Mumps Catch-Up Program

- Starting immediately and until March 31, 2009 all post-secondary students who have not received two doses of mumps containing vaccine (i.e. MMR) should be offered the additional dose(s).
- This program is being delivered through health care providers, including physicians, community health centres or campus clinics (if available).

- Peel Public Health is working with the post secondary institutions in Peel to determine if on-campus clinics will be offered in early 2009.

Role of Physicians

- Assess all students in your practice who attend a post-secondary institution to determine how many doses of a mumps-containing vaccine they have received.
- Ensure that eligible students have received two doses of a mumps-containing vaccine.
- Students who have never received a mumps-containing vaccine should have 2 doses of the MMR vaccine, separated a minimum of 28 days.
- Students who have received one dose of the MMR vaccine should be offered one additional dose of the MMR.
- Take every opportunity to discuss the importance of being fully vaccinated with young adult patients.

Additional Information

The MOHLTC mailed a letter and a "Questions and Answers" document with details about the Mumps catch-up program directly to physicians.

If you did not receive your package or have additional questions, please call Peel Public Health at 905-799-7700.

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¹ <http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/publicat/ccdr-rmtc/07pdf/acs33-08.pdf>

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Menactra™ and other Meningococcal Vaccines

Publicly funded Menactra™ vaccine is available for:

1. The immunization of household/intimate contacts of a confirmed case of invasive meningococcal disease (IMD) caused by A, W-135 and Y strains in persons 2 to 55 years of age.
2. Other high risk persons such as persons with anatomic or functional asplenia aged 2 to 55 years of age are also eligible for publicly funded Menactra™.

Other Meningococcal Vaccines:

Meningococcal C Conjugate Vaccine

Meningococcal C Conjugate vaccine will continue to be available at no charge for close contacts of a case of IMD due to serogroup C.

Menomune® vaccine

The following individuals who are identified as contacts of a confirmed vaccine-preventable case of IMD may be offered publicly funded Menomune® vaccine:

1. Children who are close contacts of a case of serogroup A* and are < 2 years of age will require two doses of Menomune® vaccine given 3 months apart.
2. Adults >55 years of age who are close contacts of a case of IMD due to serogroups A, W-135 and Y.

*Clinical protection for serogroups Y and W-135 has not been studied in children <2 years of age.²

Smoke-Free Car Legislation (Smoke-Free Ontario Act):

- As of January 21, 2009, individuals in Ontario will be prohibited from smoking inside a vehicle while a child under the age of 16 is present.
- This new law applies to both drivers and passengers.
- In addition to providing smoking cessation advice, please remind patients about this new legislation.

Why is Smoke-Free Car Legislation Important?

- Children are especially vulnerable to the effects of second-hand smoke.
- Second-hand smoke can reach very high levels in vehicles because of the small enclosed space.
- Opening a window or using a fan or ventilation system doesn't eliminate second-hand smoke exposure.
- Children are not able to control their exposure to second-hand smoke. It is important that parents, caregivers and child care providers protect them from exposure.
- There is no safe level of exposure to second-hand smoke.

For more information about this legislation or to refer patients for free smoking cessation counseling available through Peel Public Health please visit www.smokefree-peelregion.ca or call 905-799-7700.

² <http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/publicat/ccdr-rmtc/07pdf/acs33-08.pdf>