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FROM:

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Handling common issues with Student Immunization Records

The updating of immunization records for all students in Peel has resulted in an increased number of visits to physicians. Physicians are encountering some common issues that relate to unavailable records, interrupted immunization series and the timing and spacing of immunization.

The following will assist you in helping students in your practice to meet the requirements for school entry.

Unavailable Records

- When immunization records are unavailable the student should be considered unimmunized. Start the student on a primary immunization schedule based on the catch-up schedule as appropriate for their age.¹
- Routine serologic testing to determine immunity may be considered in special circumstances but is generally not practical.

Interrupted Immunization Series

- Continue with the immunization schedule. Interruption of a vaccine series does not require restarting the series, regardless of the length of time elapsed since the last dose.²

FOR PHYSICIAN USE ONLY:

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

¹ Canadian Medical Association, Canadian Immunization Guide, 7th ed., Ottawa: Health Canada, 2006. <http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/publicat/cig-gci/index.html>

² www.health.gov.on.ca/english/providers/program/immun/pdf/schedule.pdf

Timing & Spacing of Immunization

Immunizations that are incorrectly spaced are considered invalid and are not accepted as meeting the requirements to attend school. Highlights of vaccine requirements for age are provided below:

MMR:

- The first dose of the measles vaccine (administered as MMR) must be given on or after the 1st birthday. The second dose should be given at 18 months of age OR at least 28 days after the first dose.²
- As a live virus vaccine, MMR must be given on the same day as other live virus vaccines e.g. Varicella OR at least 28 days apart.²

Diphtheria, Tetanus, Pertussis and Polio:

- The requirements for diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis, and polio include a series of 5 doses by age 6 years. The booster dose or 5th dose is not necessary if the 4th dose was given after the 4th birthday.¹
- An adolescent booster dose of diphtheria and tetanus is required between 14-16 years of age. A single adolescent booster dose of pertussis is recommended and one dose of dTap is publicly funded for this age group.²
- If polio vaccine is given separately from diphtheria, tetanus, and pertussis, a minimum of 3 doses of polio vaccine are required, and the last dose must be given after 4 yrs of age.¹

**In 2008 more than 43,000 student immunization records were updated!
Thanks for your help.**