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1. Outbreaks of Pertussis in Ontario

- Two outbreaks of pertussis were reported in Ontario this spring in unimmunized and immunized populations.
- The waning of vaccine-induced protection is a worldwide phenomenon affecting adolescents and adults.

How Physicians Can Help:

- Ensure that patients have received all recommended doses of vaccine for their age with the appropriate pertussis-containing vaccine.
- Administer a single dose of acellular pertussis vaccine to pre-adolescents, adolescents, and adults who have not received a dose of acellular pertussis vaccine.

For children or youth

- 14 to 16 years of age: give a booster of Tdap (Adacel®)
- 7 to 10 years of age who missed their 4 to 6 year old booster: give Tdap (Adacel®) plus IPV (Inactivated Polio Virus)
- 7 to 17 years old beginning their primary series: give Tdap plus IPV.

Laboratory Testing

- Physicians testing patients for pertussis should collect a nasopharyngeal (NP) swab or aspirate within the first two weeks of cough symptoms using a pertussis kit obtained from the public health laboratory (call 416-235-5937 for NP swabs or pertussis kits).

2. MOHLTC Announces Menactra® Vaccine for Grade 7 Meningococcal Program

- The Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care (MOHLTC) has approved the quadrivalent meningococcal meningitis vaccine, Menactra® for the grade 7 vaccination program, replacing the current monovalent vaccines Menjugate® and NeisVac-C®.
- Menactra® provides protection against meningococcal meningitis serogroups A, C, Y, and W-135.
- Peel Public Health will be administering the quadrivalent vaccine to grade 7 students in the 2009-2010 school year.
- In special circumstances the vaccine will be released to physicians for administration to eligible grade 7 students.
- **Note:** individuals between 2 and 55 years of age with high risk conditions are also eligible to receive Menactra®.

For additional questions about vaccine eligibility or appropriate vaccine schedules, please refer to the new Publicly Funded Immunization Schedules (January 2009) for Ontario at:

<http://www.health.gov.on.ca/english/providers/program/immun/pdf/schedule.pdf>

or call Peel Public Health at 905-799-7700.