

April 2004

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NATIONAL IMMUNIZATION AWARENESS WEEK

Peel Health is pleased to recognize **National Immunization Awareness Week** which will be celebrated **April 25 – May 1, 2004**. The theme this year is “Protect them! Immunize them!” The ‘on-time’ immunization of infants and children in Canada has been identified as an important public health measure to control the spread of vaccine-preventable diseases.

Vaccine fact sheets

During the 2002 immunization awareness week campaign, Peel Health mailed out a series of laminated vaccine fact sheets. We are pleased to continue this information series and have included vaccine fact sheets for **Tetanus, Diphtheria and Pertussis Vaccine (dTap - Adacel)** and **Tetanus, Diphtheria Vaccine (Td)**.

UPDATE ON ADACEL

This update is to clarify some of the recent changes made by the MOHLTC regarding Adacel vaccine usage.

In the February 13th correspondence from the Ministry, it states that “it is recommended that the Adacel (dTap) vaccine be given to all adolescents whether or not they have received prior immunization against pertussis, as long as they have not received a dose of the acellular pertussis vaccine (Pentacel™, Quadracel™)”. *This differed from the information which was sent to you by the Ministry on Dec 1, 200 which recommended dTaP for all adolescents.* Receiving dTap is not

medically contraindicated if prior doses of acellular vaccines have been given.

Adsorbed whole cell pertussis vaccine was used in Ontario from 1984 to 1997 as part of the combined Penta and DPT-Polio vaccines. The protective efficacy of adsorbed whole cell pertussis vaccine is estimated to be quite low at 20-60%. Most adolescents presenting for their booster will likely not have had acellular pertussis vaccine in the past because it was not introduced until July 1997. Therefore, this age cohort is considered vulnerable to pertussis and requires the booster (Adacel) to provide or maintain protective antibody levels. All acellular pertussis vaccines licensed in Canada have an estimated efficacy of approximately 85%.

VACCINE ORDER FORMS

Please find enclosed an updated Vaccine Order form for your use. Please discard any old vaccine order forms you previously received from Peel Health.

Further information:

<http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/pphb-dgspsp/publicat/ccdr-rmtc/03vol29/acs-dcc-5-6/acs5.html>

For more information on vaccines and immunization, please contact **Health Line Peel** at **905-799-7700**.