

November 28, 2006

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Extended stock out of Ocean™ (Inactivated poliovirus vaccine)

Peel Public Health has been informed by the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care (MOHLTC) that Ocean™ (inactivated poliovirus vaccine) will be unavailable for distribution until March 2007. During this period, all Ontario health units will continue to be supplied with vaccines that contain inactivated poliovirus in combination products containing tetanus and diphtheria toxoids for persons requiring active immunization against poliomyelitis.

Extension of expiry dates for Ocean™ lot #'s C2242AA & C2274AA

Peel Public Health has been informed by the MOHLTC that Ocean™ lot numbers **C2242AA and C2274AA currently have expiry dates of October 31st, 2006. The expiry dates on these lot numbers can be extended to April 30th, 2007**

As outlined in the Canadian Immunization Guide 2002 (sixth edition), booster doses of IPV are not routinely recommended for adults who have been fully immunized against polio; adults should receive the tetanus-diphtheria (Td) vaccine every ten years. Under the Immunization of School Pupils Act, adolescents who have completed their series of IPV, no longer require the polio booster dose at 14 – 16 years of age. However, un-immunized or incompletely immunized adults require the completion of a primary series with the Td-IPV or equivalent. Un-immunized or incompletely immunized adolescents require the completion of a primary series of standalone IPV and dTap or equivalent.

Please report all cold chain failures immediately to Peel Public Health at (905) 791-7800 ext. 6404.

For any other inquiries, please contact Peel Public Health at **(905) 799-7700**.

Clostridium difficile (C. difficile)

C. difficile has received increased public and media attention recently with an outbreak in St. Hyacinthe, Quebec and an outbreak in Sault Ste. Marie. Other hospitals across the province of Quebec are also seeing an increase in cases.

Clinicians should consider C. difficile when patients, with risk factors, present with diarrhea. Risk factors for C. difficile-associated disease include:

- Antibiotic exposure
- Gastrointestinal surgery/manipulation
- Long length of stay in healthcare settings

The MOHLTC Provincial Infectious Diseases Advisory Committee (PIDAC) has provided detailed guidelines on how health care providers are to handle C. difficile in the PIDAC document: "Best Practices Document in the Management of Clostridium difficile in all Healthcare Settings – May 2006." Two fact sheets, one for health care professionals and one for the public are also posted for your information on the MOHLTC website at: http://www.health.gov.on.ca/english/providers/pogram/infectious/diseases/ic_cdif.html

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FROM:

Eileen de Villa, MD, MBA, MHSc, CCFP, FRCPC
Associate Medical Officer of Health

Influenza Cases in Peel – Update

Peel Region's first influenza A case in the community is a 3 year old child from Mississauga who was positive on rapid test on Nov 6. The child presented with a 2 day history of fever and cough.

Peel's first influenza B case is an 8 year old child from Brampton who was positive on rapid test Nov 16.

These cases indicate the presence of influenza in our community. Please be alert to the presence of influenza-like symptoms in your patients. Symptomatic patients should have nasopharyngeal swabs taken to confirm influenza. Swabs should be forwarded to the Central Public Health lab.

TB Physician Resource

In August of this year, Peel Public Health mailed out a "Physician's Package" that included TB resources a physician might find helpful for:

- understanding Peel Public Health's requirements for reporting positive TB skin tests
- ordering TB medications
- guidelines for testing and treating TB
- accessing TB services for uninsured persons (TB-UP).

Reminder: Please fax the evaluation form to the TB Program at (Fax) (905) 793-2114 if you have not yet had an opportunity to complete it.

Your feedback is valuable in helping the TB Program meet physician needs.

Two confirmed cases of Botulism in Southern Ontario (GTA)

There are two confirmed cases of botulism in Southern Ontario (GTA). At this time, the source of the two cases is not known. Both cases are posted on the Canadian Integrated Outbreak Surveillance Centre (CIOSC) Enteric Alert Site.

The possibility exists that the two cases may have intestinal colonization botulism, a condition that is rare in adults.

Provincial surveillance efforts have been heightened. Local Public Health units have been asked to provide this information to local health professionals to assist in additional case finding.

Further information can be found in the attached Botulism Fact Sheet for Health Professionals. This fact sheet is also available online at: <http://www.health.gov.on.ca/english/providers/pub/disease/botulism.html>.