IN THIS ISSUE:

- Acute Flaccid Paralysis Reporting
- Notices Sent to Students Who Require Immunizations to Attend School

FROM:
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Key Messages:
- Reports of Acute flaccid paralysis cases in Ontario.
- Reminder to report all cases of acute flaccid paralysis in children less than 15 years of age.
- Immunization Notices are sent to students who require immunizations to attend school as outlined in the Immunization of School Pupils Act (ISPA).
- Specific routine vaccine indications provided for students as per ISPA.

Increase of reported cases of Acute Flaccid Paralysis

As of November 8, 2018, there have been seven confirmed reports of acute flaccid paralysis (AFP) cases in children in Ontario, and an additional seven under investigation. The cause of these cases is not known.

In the US, the CDC has also reported an increase in cases of AFP in children less than 18 years of age, with no known cause in the majority. Some cases have tested positive for non-polio enteroviruses, particularly enterovirus-A71 (EV-A71).

What is AFP?

AFP is a weakness or paralysis of muscles without an obvious cause. AFP can have a variety of infectious and non-infectious causes.

The most common sign of AFP is the sudden onset of weakness and loss of muscle tone and reflexes in one or more limbs. In addition to limb weakness, signs can also include facial droop/weakness, difficulty moving the eyes, drooping eyelids, or difficulty with swallowing or slurred speech.

AFP is a disease of public health significance and has been reportable in Ontario since 2013, for cases in children less than 15 years of age.

For additional information on AFP and reporting requirements:
- [www.publichealthontario.ca/en/BrowseByTopic/InfectiousDiseases/Pages/Enterovirus-D68.aspx](http://www.publichealthontario.ca/en/BrowseByTopic/InfectiousDiseases/Pages/Enterovirus-D68.aspx)
- [https://www.publichealthontario.ca/en/BrowseByTopic/Pages/default.aspx#Tab_A](https://www.publichealthontario.ca/en/BrowseByTopic/Pages/default.aspx#Tab_A)
(PHO > Acute Flaccid Paralysis > Acute Flaccid Paralysis Case Report Form)

Testing for AFP

For patients presenting with symptoms of AFP, laboratory testing is used to rule out and/or determine pathogens causing AFP, including enteroviruses, and should include:
- Two stool samples (collected within 2 weeks and up to 6 weeks after onset of paralysis) for viral and campylobacter testing;
- Viral throat swab;
- CSF and neurological investigations – as appropriate for the investigation.

Information on laboratory testing for AFP and enterovirus:
- [https://www.publichealthontario.ca/en/eRepository/PHO_AFP_EVD68_Table_Public_Health_Surveillance_Laboratory_Testing.PDF](https://www.publichealthontario.ca/en/eRepository/PHO_AFP_EVD68_Table_Public_Health_Surveillance_Laboratory_Testing.PDF)

REMINDER: Immunization Notices

The Region of Peel – Public Health has started sending Immunization Notices to students who require immunizations to attend school as outlined in the Immunization of School Pupils Act (ISPA).
Students who receive an **Immunization Notice** may contact your office to:

1. Obtain a copy of the immunizations received.
2. Book an appointment to receive overdue vaccine doses.

The antigens required as per ISPA align with the [Publicly Funded Immunization Schedule for Ontario – December 2016](http://www.peelregion.ca/immunize/).

NOTE: The minimum age at first dose and spacing between doses must be followed to meet the ISPA requirements.

If a student in your practice receives an immunization notice, follow these steps:

1. Check your records for the student’s immunization history. If the student has already received the vaccine(s) listed on the form, document the vaccine(s) and date(s) on the form. List the vaccine(s) by trade name.
2. Administer the vaccine(s) if the student has not received the vaccine(s).
   **Exception:** Students in grade 7-12 (aged 12-17) require Men-C-ACYW-135 which is provided by Public Health. Parents should call Peel Public Health or visit [http://www.peelregion.ca/immunize/](http://www.peelregion.ca/immunize/) for information on how to get their child vaccinated.
3. Remind parent/guardian to report the immunization to the Region of Peel Public Health.

If you have any questions, please contact Peel Public Health at 905-799-7700 to review the record with a Public Health Nurse.

**REMINDER: Specific routine vaccine indications for students as per ISPA**

**DTaP-IPV-Hib and Tdap-IPV**

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<tr>
<th>Indication</th>
<th>Antigen/product</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5-6 years of age receiving a primary series (catch-up schedule)</td>
<td>DTaP-IPV-Hib <em>PediaCept®</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>7 years or older receiving a primary series</td>
<td>Tdap-IPV <em>Adacel®-Polio or Boostrix®-Polio</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>14-16 years of age booster</td>
<td>Tdap <em>Adacel® or Boostrix®</em></td>
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**Men-C-C and Men-C-ACYW-135**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Indication</th>
<th>Antigen/product</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>≥12 months (up to 11 years of age)</td>
<td>Men-C-C <em>Menjugate®</em></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Given by primary care provider (as per routine schedule)

**NOTE:** Do not provide to students ≥12 years of age

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age 12-17 (Grades 7-12)</th>
<th>Men-C-ACYW-135 <em>(Menactra®)</em></th>
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Given at school/by Public Health (as per routine schedule)

**MMR**

Students are required to have **two** doses of MMR vaccine.

- 1st dose, routinely given on or after the 1st birthday.
- 2nd dose, routinely given as MMRV at 4-6 years of age.

**Varicella**

Students born after January 1, 2010 are required to have **two** doses of varicella vaccine.

- 1st dose, routinely given at 15 months.
- 2nd dose, routinely given as MMRV at 4-6 years of age.

For more information, please contact Peel Public Health at 905-799-7700.