

ADVISORY: Immunization Notices for Elementary Students

March 9, 2016



The Peterborough County-City Health Unit has started mailing **first notices** to parents/guardians of elementary school students born in 2007, 2008, and 2009 who are OVERDUE for immunizations required under *the Immunization of School Pupils Act (ISPA)*. The changes to *ISPA* include the addition of pertussis, meningococcal and varicella vaccines as per the Ontario Publicly Funded Immunization Schedule.

Immunization for this age group includes:

- a. **one dose of Menjugate (Men C-C) vaccine on or after their first birthday (NOT Menactra, which is administered in school-based vaccine clinics for grade 7 students)**
- b. two doses of MMR vaccine given at least one month apart and on or after their first birthday
- c. Pediacel (DTaP-IPV-Hib) given at 2, 4, 6 and 18 months of age as their primary series
- d. a Tdap-IPV booster given between 4 to 6 years of age
- e. Two doses of varicella given at 15 months and between 4 to 6 years of age

What can your office do to prepare?

1. Maintain a one month supply of routine vaccines in your office.
2. Be ready to receive calls requesting immunization information or to book appointments.
3. Ask parents/guardians to bring the **first notice** form to the appointment.
4. Check the front of the **first notice** to determine what is needed.
5. Send immunization information to the Health Unit by any of the following methods:
 - Complete and fax the *Please Notify* tear-off form to (705)743-2897 (*if you require additional tear-off forms, please advise when ordering vaccine and we can include them with your order*)
 - Complete and fax the **first notice** to the Health Unit (705)743-2897
 - Call the Health Unit (705)743-1000, ext. 139 to report the immunization and the date
 - Ask parent to call the Health Unit (705)743-1000, ext. 139 to report the immunization and the date
6. Take the opportunity to immunize with any additional vaccines that they are eligible for under the Ontario Publicly Funded Immunization Schedule. Those who are 4 to 6 years old may be due for their second MMR and a Tdap-IPV even though this might not be reflected in the **first notice** because they are not OVERDUE until 7 years old. Children born on or after the year 2000 are eligible for two doses of varicella vaccine.

Thanks to a combined effort, 92% of our high-school students now comply with *ISPA*, compared to 67% before the notification process began. We would like to thank all the healthcare providers in our area for their ongoing support to ensure we have a population that is immunized and protected from vaccine preventable diseases.

Call a Vaccine Preventable Disease Nurse at (705)743-1000, ext. 139 if you have any questions.

Dr. Rosana Salvaterra, MD, MSc, CCFP, FRCPC
Medical Officer of Health