



## MERS-CoV and the Hajj

The 2016 Hajj is took place from approximately September 9 – 14, 2016 in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. This spiritual pilgrimage is the largest annual gathering in the world. As with other mass gathering events, the large numbers of people expected to be in attendance during this year's Hajj may increase the risk of transmission of certain infectious diseases, such as influenza and meningococcal disease. Travellers to this region should be aware of Middle East Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus (MERS-CoV), a virus that can cause severe respiratory illness, and should be aware of measures they can undertake to reduce or eliminate their potential exposure to MERS-CoV.

Please review the information regarding MERS-CoV on the Ontario Ministry of Health and Long Term Care (MOHLTC) [website](#) regularly to ensure you are following the latest guidance. Although the risk posed by MERS-CoV in Ontario continues to be low, it is important that health workers maintain readiness to detect, investigate and manage cases that are imported to Ontario. The Public Health Agency of Canada has posted a [Travel Health Notice](#) about the 2016 Hajj, which you may wish to share with clients/patients who are travelling to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

The MOHLTC is available to support healthcare workers during urgent situations on a 24/7 basis through the Health Care Provider Hotline at 1-866-212-2272.

## 2016-2017 School-Based Immunization Clinics

As a reminder for the upcoming 2016-17 school year, Grade 7 boys and girls will be eligible to receive the following publicly funded vaccines: Menactra, Hepatitis B and Human Papillomavirus (HPV). These three vaccines will be administered in school-based clinics. This will be the last year that we will be administering the HPV vaccine to Grade 8 girls. Girls who were eligible for the HPV vaccine in Grade 8 and missed their immunization continue to be eligible for the publicly funded vaccine until the end of Grade 12. Boys who are in Grades 8 to 12 during the 2016-17 school year are NOT eligible to receive the publicly funded HPV vaccine. For non-eligible children, the vaccine can be purchased privately.

For further information, visit [www.peterboroughpublichealth.ca](http://www.peterboroughpublichealth.ca) or call Vaccine Preventable Disease Public Health Nurses at 705-743-1000, ext. 131 if you have any questions.

View the **FYI Newsletter** online at  
[www.peterboroughpublichealth.ca](http://www.peterboroughpublichealth.ca) under  
For Professionals | Health Professionals | FYI Newsletter

## School Immunization Suspension Process Initiated

Under the *Ontario's Immunization of School Pupils Act (ISPA)*, all children and adolescents under the age of 18 attending elementary or secondary school must be immunized with Ontario's required vaccines or have a valid immunization exemption on file with Peterborough Public Health (PPH).

The suspension process for the 2016-2017 school year will first begin with high school students in the City and County of Peterborough.

Two notices will be mailed to parents/legal guardians of any high school students with any missing immunization information at PPH. The first notice will be mailed by mid-September, with the second notice mailed in early October 2016. Suspensions for high school students will begin as early as October 25, 2016. Required immunizations under the *ISPA* include: diphtheria, pertussis, tetanus, polio, meningococcal, measles, mumps, rubella and varicella. Varicella is mandatory for those with birth year 2010 and younger.

Recommendations for healthcare providers:

- Maintain an inventory of vaccine for this age group
- When students come in, take the opportunity to check and update their immunization records
- Fax updated immunization records to PPH at 705-743-2897
- Call 705-743-1000, ext. 131 if unsure about the immunization of a student in your office

Any questions on the *ISPA* can be directed to a Public Health Nurse in the Vaccine Preventable Diseases Program by calling 705-743-1000, ext. 139.

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## Expansion of HPV Vaccination Eligibility

Effective September 2016, Ontario has expanded the publicly funded HPV immunization program to include people who are 26 years of age or younger who identify as gay, bisexual, as well as other men who have sex with men (MSM) including some trans people (specifically, those who identify as MSM). It is estimated that without immunization, three out of four sexually active Canadians will get HPV in their lifetime. Among MSM, the risk of persistent HPV infection and genital warts are about three times higher and the risk of anal cancer is approximately 20 times higher than among heterosexual males.



This program change aligns with expert recommendations from Canada's National Advisory Committee on Immunization (NACI) and Ontario's Provincial Infectious Diseases Advisory Committee on Immunization, and adheres with the age indications for which the vaccine is licenced for use in Canada among males (i.e., between 9 and 26 years of age).

### How can clients get the vaccine?

Healthcare providers can order this vaccine through the HPV Vaccine Order Form located at [www.peterboroughpublichealth.ca](http://www.peterboroughpublichealth.ca) for their clients. Vaccination will also be available in the Peterborough Public Health Sexual Health and Immunization clinics. Gardasil®, manufactured by Merck Canada and authorized for use in Canada since 2006, is the HPV vaccine used in Ontario's HPV immunization program. Gardasil protects against four types of HPV— types 6, 11, 16 and 18, which cause approximately 90 per cent of genital warts, 92 per cent of anal cancers, 63 per cent of penile cancers, and 89 per cent of mouth and certain types of throat cancers.

### What is the dosing schedule?

Depending on the age at first dose and medical and immunization history, the HPV vaccine is given either as a 2 or 3-dose series. Individuals require all the recommended doses to get full protection.

Specifically, if an individual receives their first dose after the age of 14 years, regardless of immunocompetence, it is recommended that they receive 3 doses of HPV vaccine over a six-month period using a 0, 2 and 6 month schedule. If an individual receives their first dose before the age of 14 years, and are both immunocompetent and HIV negative, it is recommended that they receive 2 doses of HPV vaccine using either a 0, 6 month schedule or a 0, 12 month schedule. NOTE: For all doses to be publicly funded, the series must be initiated and completed before the individual turns 27 years of age.

### How do you verify MSM status?

Individuals who self-identify as gay, bisexual, and other MSM including some trans people, up to the age of 26 years (i.e., prior to the 27<sup>th</sup> birthday) are eligible for publicly funded HPV vaccine.

### Who should not get the HPV vaccine?

Individuals should not get the HPV vaccine if they:

- Have had a life-threatening allergic reaction (also known as anaphylaxis) to a previous dose of the HPV vaccine; or
- Have a severe allergy to any component of the HPV vaccine or its container.

For more information about the vaccine, contraindications and precautions, refer to the vaccine product monograph available at: [www.merck.ca](http://www.merck.ca) | [Products](#) | [Vaccines](#) | [Gardasil®](#)

### Who can I contact for more information?

Call Peterborough Public Health and speak to a Public Health Nurse in either the Vaccine Preventable Disease program or Sexual Health program at 705-743-1000 or visit [www.peterboroughpublichealth.ca](http://www.peterboroughpublichealth.ca).

## Publicly Funded Herpes Zoster Immunization Program

Effective September 15, 2016, Ontario will introduce herpes zoster (shingles) vaccine for individuals 65 to 70 years of age, as part of Ontario's publicly funded immunization program. Also, until December 31, 2016, individuals who are born in 1945 are also eligible for this vaccine.

### What is herpes zoster?

The varicella zoster virus (VZV) causes two distinct clinical syndromes: varicella (chicken pox), and zoster (shingles). Herpes zoster (HZ) infection arises from the reactivation of latent varicella zoster virus from a previous chicken pox infection.

### Who is eligible for the publicly funded herpes zoster immunization program?

Individuals 65 to 70 years of age are eligible as part of Ontario's publicly funded immunization program. NOTE: Between September 15, 2016 and December 31, 2016, individuals born in 1945 (i.e., those who have turned or will be turning 71 years of age in 2016), will be eligible for publicly funded herpes zoster vaccine through a one-time catch-up program. This one-time catch up program will end on December 31, 2016, after which individuals ages 65 to 70 years will be eligible for publicly funded herpes zoster vaccine. Individuals aged 65 to 70 will be able to receive herpes zoster vaccine through their primary care provider. Primary care providers are encouraged to identify and offer the herpes zoster vaccine to their eligible patients.

### How do I order herpes zoster vaccine?

Health care providers can order herpes zoster vaccine through Peterborough Public Health using the updated Vaccine Order Form. Call to have the form faxed to you or check online at [www.peterboroughpublichealth.ca](http://www.peterboroughpublichealth.ca) | [For Professionals](#) | [Health Professionals](#) | [Vaccines](#).

### Who should not receive the herpes zoster vaccine?

Zostavax® II is a live attenuated vaccine and should not be given to:

- Individuals with primary and acquired immunodeficiency states due to conditions such as: acute and chronic leukemias; lymphoma; other conditions affecting the bone marrow or lymphatic system; immunosuppression due to HIV/AIDS
- Individuals on immunosuppressive therapy (including high-dose corticosteroids)
- Individuals with a history of anaphylaxis after previous administration of the vaccine
- Individuals with proven immediate or anaphylactic hypersensitivity to any component of the vaccine or its container, including gelatin or neomycin
- Individuals with active herpes zoster
- Individuals with active untreated tuberculosis
- Individuals who are pregnant

Administration of HZ vaccine should be postponed in persons suffering from severe acute illness, however, immunization should not be delayed because of minor acute illness, with or without fever. Further information on who should not receive the herpes zoster vaccine can be found in the Canadian Immunization Guide: [www.phac-aspc.gc.ca](http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca) | [Immunizations & Vaccines](#) | [Publications](#) | [Canadian Immunization Guide](#).

### Where can I get more information?

For more information on Ontario's publicly funded immunization program including herpes zoster vaccine, please visit: [www.ontario.ca](http://www.ontario.ca) search [Vaccines and Immunization](#) or call Peterborough Public Health Vaccine Preventable Disease Nurses at 705-743-1000, ext. 131.



## Resources For HCPs



**NutriSTEP®**

NutriSTEP® [www.nutristep.ca](http://www.nutristep.ca) is a valid and reliable questionnaire to assess eating habits and identify nutrition problems of toddlers (18-35 months) and preschoolers (3-5 years). Integrating NutriSTEP® into the primary care setting helps facilitate early identification of potential nutrition problems, parent nutrition education, and parental referral to community resources.

Contact Peterborough Public Health by calling 705-743-1000, ext. 361 for more information on obtaining copies of NutriSTEP® for your primary care practice.

**NEW!**

## Speech and Language Brochures



Click on each brochure above to preview.

Learning to Talk is about children ages birth to 2 ½, while Learning to Talk 2 is about children ages 2 ½ to 5 years of age. Both brochures provide concrete suggestions and examples of activities to stimulate growth and development, especially speech and language.

These new and free brochures are available for order through the Peterborough Public Health Family Health Resource Order Form at [www.peterboroughpublichealth.ca](http://www.peterboroughpublichealth.ca) | **For Professionals | Health Professionals** under **Resources**.

Also remember to refer families to our local speech and language website [www.kidtalk.on.ca](http://www.kidtalk.on.ca) as well as our Family HEALTHline at 705-743-1000. Public Health Nurses are ready to talk to parents about ways to encourage speech and language, as well as refer to appropriate agencies for further support. The website has recently been updated to include an FAQ section, downloadable audio rhymes and finger-plays, videos and age appropriate tips about sharing books together.

## Health Events For Patients

### Prenatal Health Fair for Expecting Parents Monday, October 3, 2016

6:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Holiday Inn, 150 George Street Peterborough

This event is free and open to everyone with an interest in learning how best to prepare for having a baby, and about the supports available in the Peterborough area. The Prenatal Health Fair features interactive displays and demonstrations on a wide variety of topics such as nutrition for baby and Mom, becoming a parent, baby's development, and much more.

Car seat experts from the newly-formed Peterborough and Area Car Seat Committee share tips and answer questions about how to safely buckle up baby, a massage therapist demonstrates infant massage techniques, a chiropractor recommends ways to prevent back pain in pregnancy and hospital staff share the many ways they provide support to get breastfeeding off to a good start. Fathers-to-be won't want to miss trying on the "Empathy Belly" and visiting the fathering display. You will enjoy a refreshment and might even win the door prize!

The Prenatal Health Fair is hosted by the Peterborough Public Health with partner agencies and local services.

For more details, please call Kris Hazlitt at the Peterborough Public Health at 705-743-1000, ext. 254.

### Prenatal Classes for Patients

Our classes will prepare you for the challenges of birth, caring for your baby, and becoming a parent. You'll gain confidence as you explore up-to-date information, practice new skills, share ideas, and connect with other expectant parents in a friendly and supportive environment.

**To register or for more information**, call or email the Peterborough Public Health 705-743-1000, ext. 254 or 282 or [info@peterboroughpublichealth.ca](mailto:info@peterboroughpublichealth.ca)

