

## Community Medicine Newsletter

### Public Health updates

#### **Pneumococcal 23**

Many patients are calling in to public health asking about a pneumococcal booster. All seniors starting at 65 years of age qualify for one pneumococcal vaccine. A one time booster dose, five years from first shot, is recommended for individuals who have chronic liver or kidney disease, immunocompromising conditions, sickle cell disease or asplenia. As a result, most seniors 65+ do not require a booster. Some patients under 65 with certain chronic health conditions may also be eligible for a Pneumococcal 23 vaccine.

Please consult the immunization manual at [www.bccdc.ca](http://www.bccdc.ca) for the details on who is eligible for this vaccine.

#### **School age immunization reminders:**

**Varicella 2-dose program:** Officially, a second dose of varicella was included in the routine schedule as of January 2012. Children should receive dose 1 at 12 months of age and dose 2 starting at age 4, for kindergarten entry. We are also providing a second dose catch-up program in grade 6.

Please feel free to offer a second dose of varicella to anyone 19 years of age and younger who needs one as they present in your office. Your patients 13 years and older who are susceptible to varicella disease should be offered 2 doses, 6 weeks apart.

**K boosters:** Children from 4-6 years of age are eligible for a DTP booster (Adacel-Polio® vaccine) as well as their second dose varicella. We recommend that these vaccines are given prior to kindergarten entry or during the kindergarten year. The coverage of DTP booster has been declining over the past several years, with only 57% of parents accepting this vaccine for KG kids last year. The declining coverage poses a risk to children as reflected by the highest rate of pertussis in North Vancouver/West Vancouver during last year's pertussis outbreak. The majority of our cases were in unvaccinated or under vaccinated children. Please do recommend the K boosters to the eligible children/families in your practice.

**Adacel® eligibility:** Now that the pertussis outbreak has been declared over, we are reverting back to the previous eligibility for Adacel® vaccine which is a booster dose for grade 9 students. Adults wishing to receive a dose of pertussis-containing vaccine may purchase Adacel® at a pharmacy, travel clinic or through public health.

#### **HPV Program:**

##### **Grade 6 Gardasil® program:**

Currently girls in grade 6 are being offered the Gardasil® vaccine through public health in the school setting. Please note that all girls born in 1994 and younger are eligible for Gardasil® vaccine. Roughly

30% of all eligible girls in grades 6-12 have not accepted HPV vaccine. If you are seeing these school-aged girls in your office, we encourage you to assess your patient's HPV vaccination status and recommend HPV vaccine if they have declined it in school. You may order Gardasil® for specific patient use from our vaccine clerk at 604-983-6784.

**Cervarix® program, females born 1991-1993**

Young women born in 1991-1993 who have not been immunized for HPV are eligible for publicly funded Cervarix® vaccine. You may also order this vaccine for your office use or refer your patients to a pharmacy or public health. Please help get the message out about this important catch-up program.

**Flu reminders:**

**Flumist® vaccine expiring February 18, 2013**

Please be aware that Flumist® vaccine you may currently have will be expiring shortly. Any expired Flumist® vaccine can be returned to our office following expiry.

**Keep offering flu vaccine**

Influenza and ILI activity continue at high levels across the North Shore. Please offer Flumist® vaccine to any eligible child or adult up to 59 years of age prior to expiry and continue to offer flu vaccine to eligible and high-risk patients.

**Report of immunizations by physicians:**

Please remember to send in your vaccine utilization forms **once a month**. You do not need to fill up the form before sending it in. Once received in our office, the immunizations are added to the client's electronic record so that an accurate tally of the patient's immunizations is available.

Thank you for your support of the immunization program.

If you have any questions or comments, please feel free to call our immunization nurse on-call at 604-983-6700.

Sincerely,



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