



Community Medicine Newsletter

Media accounts of cuts to public health *post partum* home visits to new mothers are not true!

There has been recent media coverage about the new Nurse Family Partnership program that VCH will begin to implement in 2012. Unfortunately, the stories claimed the program will be funded by discontinuing routine home visits to new mothers, or discontinuing all home visiting programs except this new program. **This is not true.**

In VCH, all postpartum women will continue to be contacted by public health nurses and receive home visits as needed.

The priority of our contacts with families continues to be early identification of problems like infant jaundice or dehydration, promotion of breastfeeding, and promotion of maternal wellbeing, including the identification of mothers with perinatal depression.

The Nurse Family Partnership is a small but important program (targeting young, high risk mothers) that will gradually be implemented over 4 years. At full capacity, it will support 400 families a year out of the approximately 10,000 with new babies in VCH.

Notes From the Influenza Vaccination Campaign: Process for accessing Agriflu®, influenza vaccine for thimerosal allergic individuals:

VCH has received 100 doses only of Agriflu® for individuals with thimerosal allergy. You may recall that in previous years Inluvac® – thimerosal free vaccine - was available by special order for this indication. Agriflu® unfortunately cannot be sent to your office as the prefilled syringes are packaged together ten per box.

Your patients requiring this vaccine can receive it from a public health nurse at their local community health centre. Please provide your patients with a prescription (indicating Agriflu® and reason for this vaccine) to take to the public health nurse. A vaccination appointment can be arranged by speaking with the PHN on-call. The local public health clinics are indicated below.

CHC	Address	Fax	Phone
VANCOUVER COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTRES			
Evergreen	3425 Crowley Dr.	604.871.0174	604.872.2511
Pacific Spirit	2110 W. 43 rd Ave.	604.261.7220	604.261.6366
Raven Song	2450 Ontario St.	604.872.5223	604.709.6400
Robert & Lily Lee Family	1669 E. Broadway	604.253.2460	604.675.3980
South	6405 Knight St.	604.321.2947	604.321.6151
Three Bridges	1292 Hornby St.	604.734.5918	604.736.9844
RICHMOND COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTRE			
Richmond	8100 Granville Ave.	604.233.3198	604.233.3150
NORTH SHORE COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTRE			
Central	132 West Esplanade	604.983.6839	604.983.6863

Sincerely,

Brian A. O'Connor, MD, MHSc
Medical Health Officer
Vancouver Coastal Health, North Shore