

September 23, 2015

Dear Child Care Operator:

Re: Staff Immunization

The Child Care and Early Years Act, 2014 Section 57 (1) states “every licensee of a child care centre shall ensure that, before commencing employment, each person employed in each child care centre it operates has a health assessment and immunization as recommended by the local medical officer of health”. This letter is intended to provide guidance for your policy development in this area from the perspective of the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit.

Written proof of the following immunizations (or a valid exemption) is recommended before employees or volunteers start to work in a licensed child care centre. The child care supervisor is responsible for keeping a record of the employee’s complete immunization record. This most commonly used record would be in the form of a copy of their yellow immunization card. If staff do not have a yellow card, they may be able to retrieve this information from the health unit where they attended school or from their family physician.

The record does not need to be sent to the health unit but should be available should a public health staff request to see it. Public health staff may require this information to prevent and/or control an outbreak.

Disease	Recommended Vaccine or Test
Measles, Mumps, Rubella	At least one dose given after first birthday. Not required if born prior to 1970 or if there is lab documented immunity to all three infections. Staff may want to consider a second dose of MMR if they are born between 1970 and 1992, as evidence shows that people born in this cohort may not have adequate protection.
Tetanus, Diphtheria	A basic series in childhood and adolescence, and a booster every ten years.
Pertussis	A basic series in childhood and adolescence (given in a combination vaccine with Tetanus and Diphtheria). For adults, a one-time booster of pertussis-containing vaccine (Tdap) is recommended. It can be given when the next Tetanus and Diphtheria booster is due.
Polio	A basic series in childhood – adult boosters not routinely recommended.

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Disease	Recommended Vaccine or Test
Influenza	All staff should receive a dose every fall. Only the current year's dose is protective and needs to remain on file.
Tuberculosis	<p>In general, employees/volunteers/child attendees in Simcoe Muskoka child care centres are not at increased risk of contracting and developing tuberculosis.</p> <p>Based on the local epidemiology, tuberculin skin testing of all employees/volunteers is not currently routinely recommended.</p>

Routine adult immunization is available free of charge from healthcare providers or the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit.

Your staff may also want to consider the following immunizations:

Varicella Vaccine (chickenpox) – Susceptible teachers, child care staff, and others who may be exposed to varicella through their work can be immunized with a two dose schedule. If there is an unknown or negative history of chickenpox, an option is to perform serologic testing to determine the need for immunization, (since up to 80% of people will be immune despite a negative history). There is a cost for this vaccine. According to the National Advisory Committee on Immunization, non-pregnant women of child-bearing age who are susceptible to varicella should be immunized with two doses of vaccine; those who are vaccinated should avoid pregnancy for at least one month after vaccination.

Hepatitis A - This vaccine is publicly funded for the following people:

- Persons with chronic liver disease (including hepatitis B & C)
- Intravenous drug users
- Men who have sex with men
- Contacts of a confirmed case

It is also available at a cost to all people who want to decrease their risk of acquiring hepatitis A.

Hepatitis B –This vaccine is publicly funded for the following people:

- Offered to all students in grade seven through the school immunization program
- Infants born to carrier mothers
- Household and sexual contacts of chronic carriers and acute cases
- Persons on renal dialysis and those with diseases requiring frequent receipt of blood products
- Persons awaiting liver transplants
- Injection drug users

- Men who have sex with men, individuals with multiple sexual partners or with a history of sexually transmitted infection
- Those who have needle stick injuries in a non-health care setting
- Children less than seven years old whose families have immigrated from countries of high prevalence for hepatitis B and who may be exposed to hepatitis B carriers through their extended families
- Persons with chronic liver disease, including hepatitis C

It is also available at a cost to all people who want to decrease their risk of acquiring hepatitis B.

I trust this information will help with your policy development. If you have any questions, please contact the Vaccine Preventable Disease Team at 705-721-7520 or 1-877-721-7520 ext. 8807.

Yours truly,

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