

Immunization Program COVID-19 Pandemic Update #2

Attention: Physicians, Walk-In Clinics/Urgent Care Clinics, Nurse Practitioners, Midwives, Pharmacies, Family Health Teams, Central LHIN, NSM LHIN, Beausoleil First Nation, Rama First Nation, Moose Deer Point First Nation, Wahta First Nation

Date: July 2, 2020

With the lifting of some restrictions and the staged re-opening of businesses in Ontario as a result of COVID-19, the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit (SMDHU) is also in the beginning stages of resuming certain programs and services.

Maintaining a high level of immunity to vaccine preventable diseases remains a high priority for us, and as a result we are slowly opening back up our immunization clinics for the target groups listed below.

Target groups for immunization appointments at SMDHU clinics include:

- all routine vaccines for infants and children up to age 6 (including 4-6 year boosters)
- all high risk individuals (of all ages).

We want to encourage all health care providers to resume/continue offering routine publicly funded vaccines to all individuals as they are able. Priority in SMDHU immunization clinics will be given to those in the target group who are without access to a health care provider.

Grade 7 School Immunization Program

At this time we are awaiting further direction from the Ministry of Health with regard to completing any remaining doses of HB, HPV or Men-C-ACYW vaccine that grade 7 students are still requiring. As soon as plans for catch up are finalized, we will communicate to health care providers, schools and parents. School vaccines are still being released to health care providers on a case by case basis for those who are able to accommodate students in their office. **If school vaccines are administered in your office please remember to report that information to us.**

Storage and Handling Inspections

SMDHU will be conducting the majority of storage and handling visits virtually this year (in an effort to help protect everyone's health and safety during the COVID-19 pandemic). When necessary, in-person storage and handling visits will occur.

A public health nurse will be in contact with you shortly to set up your inspection, review what this process will look like and discuss additional precautions being taken due to COVID-19.

If you have any questions, please contact the Immunization Program at 705-721-7520 ext. 8806 during regular business hours (Monday to Friday 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.).

