

National Immunization Awareness Week April 26th to May 3rd

Attention: Physicians, Walk-In Clinics, Emergency Departments, Infection Control Practitioners, Occupational Health Practitioners, Family Health Teams, Nurse Practitioners, NSM LHIN, Central LHIN, Midwives

Date: April 24, 2014

Each year we send HealthFAX's related to Vaccine Preventable Diseases. At this time of year we recognize Canada's **National Immunization Awareness Week (NIAW)**. This link highlights the resources available <http://immunize.ca/en/events/iaw2014.aspx>.

The health unit is using NIAW to remind the public that all their immunizations, including measles, need to be current, which may result in increased calls and visits by your patients.

New: Changes to immunization requirements for school attendance

We will be reminding parents that as of July 2014, all students attending primary or secondary school this fall will need proof of immunization against three more diseases: meningococcal disease, whooping cough and – for children born in 2010 or later – chickenpox. This is in addition to updated dose requirements for tetanus, diphtheria, polio and mumps immunizations. For more, check the health unit's health care professional page at <http://www.simcoemuskokahealth.org/JFY/HealthProfessionals/PrimaryHealthCare.aspx>.

New: Maintaining immunization records

Children attending school or daycare in Ontario must be immunized for the above listed diseases under the Immunization of School Pupils Act or the Day Nurseries Act. If parents choose not to have their child immunized they must submit an exemption form. The health unit is required to collect and maintain up-to-date records of immunization for every child registered in school or daycare in Simcoe County and Muskoka District. Health care providers can encourage their patients to update their records to the health unit directly online at <https://www.simcoemuskokahealth.org/HealthUnit/Contact/ChildImmunization.aspx>.

New: Get the free app

Patients can also download a new free, bilingual mobile app, [ImmunizeCA](http://immunize.ca) that has been developed to help Canadians keep track of their immunizations. It's available here <http://www.immunize.ca/en/app.aspx>.

Reminder: General immunization recommendations for measles

- Everyone born in 1970 or after is recommended to have two measles immunizations at least four weeks apart, with the first one given at one year of age at the earliest.
- Adults born before 1970 are assumed to be immune due to previous infection. Health care workers and military personnel, regardless of when they were born are recommended to have two measles immunizations or proof of immunity.
- People who are travelling and were born in 1970 or later receive two measles immunizations. If born before 1970, one dose is recommended.
- Measles immunization is not recommended for immunocompromised patients or pregnant women.

A single measles immunization is 85 to 95% effective; two doses in children provides close to 100% effectiveness. For further information on immunization-related issues, please contact the health unit at 705-721-7520 ext. 8806.