

Health **FAX**

Student Immunization Review August 2011

Attention: **Family Physicians, Nurse Practitioners**

Date: August 9, 2011

SUMMARY

- Elementary and secondary school student immunization records are currently being reviewed by the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit. This is part of an annual process, culminating in the potential suspension of students for whom immunization information is not received.
- Between now and the enforcement of suspensions in October, please be advised that you may receive an increased demand for catch-up immunization appointments. We hope the information below will provide useful background to address these.
- A common source of confusion in the catch-up schedule is to provide DTaP-IPV (Quadracel®) to children 7 years and older who are late receiving this as a 4-6 year old booster. Instead, the age-appropriate schedule is to give two separate injections - Tdap (Adacel® or Boosterix®) and IPV.

BACKGROUND

Process used by Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit

The **Immunization of School Pupil's Act (ISPA)** requires all health units in Ontario to collect and maintain up-to-date immunization records for every child registered in school in their jurisdiction. The ISPA states that parents are required to provide the health unit with proof of immunization. This act does allow for certain exemptions. Medical exemption forms are available at: [Immunization of School Pupils Act - R.R.O. 1990, Reg. 645](#) or from the health unit immunization staff. Parents who choose not to immunize their child should contact the health unit to complete the required documentation.

Upon review of student records by the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit, students with incomplete records will receive a questionnaire, then a notice of impending suspension from school, followed by suspension if immunization information is not provided after these reminders. Suspension for this round will be enforced on October 18, 2011.

The health unit has been and will continue to provide immunization clinics for students who do not have family doctors. These additional health unit clinics have been planned throughout the summer and have been communicated to parents, guardians and students.

Immunizations required by the ISPA

Immunizations required by the ISPA include **tetanus, diphtheria, polio, measles, mumps and rubella.**

A brief summary of the Publicly Funded Immunization Schedules for Ontario (2011) for these vaccines is provided here, but please refer to the schedule for details:

Tetanus, Diphtheria, Polio

- Children 4-6 years of age should have received 5 doses of tetanus, diphtheria, pertussis and polio and 4 doses of haemophilus influenza type b, unless they missed vaccination(s) and required catch-up.

*Please note children who are late to receive their 4-6 year booster, and do so *after* their 7th birthday, require two different products:

- Tdap (Adacel® or Boosterix®), administered IM *and*
- IPV (Polio), administered SC

While Quadracel® covers all four of the antigens required for the 4-6 year booster, this product is only licensed for children *until* their 7th birthday.

- Adolescents 14-16 years of age should receive Tdap (Adacel® or Boosterix®) booster.

Measles, Mumps, Rubella (MMR)

- Children 4-6 years of age should have received 2 doses of MMR. Children may receive a questionnaire if they have only had 1 dose of MMR, or if they have had 2 doses but 1 was prior to their **1st birthday**.

It is safe and effective to give multiple injections at the same visit, provided the vaccines are administered in different syringes and in different sites (at least 1" a part).

Other recommended school aged immunizations, not required by the ISPA

The following vaccines are publicly funded and recommended for school aged children, but are not required by the ISPA. Please see the Publicly Funded Immunization Schedules for Ontario (2011) for details.

- Pertussis and Haemophilus influenza type b
 - Given in combination with tetanus, diphtheria, and polio
- Varicella Vaccine (Varilrix®, Varivax III®, Priorix-Tetra™)
 - Recent addition of 2nd dose to the publicly funded schedule
- Meningococcal (Group A, C, Y, and W-135) Conjugate Vaccine (Menactra®)
 - Publicly funded for elementary students in Grade 7.
- Hepatitis B vaccine (Recombivax HB® or Engerix®-B)
 - Publicly funded for elementary students in Grade 7.
- Human Papilloma Virus (HPV) vaccine (Gardasil®)
 - Publicly funded for elementary students in Grade 8.

Thank you for providing your patients with immunizations during this time. At all times, families are asked to notify the health unit with dates of routine immunizations by phone, fax or online. New this year is an online option for the confidential reporting of immunization information by parents:

Phone: 705-721-7520 ext. 8807 or toll free 1-877-721-7520

Fax: 705-721-1495

Online: www.simcoemuskokahealth.org/ImmsOnline

Should you require more information, please do not hesitate to contact our Vaccine Information Line for Health Care Providers at 705-721-7520 ext 8806.