



Communiqué

UIIP: Welcome Pharmacists

In October 2012 the Ministry of Health and Long Term Care (MOHLTC) announced that the Universal Influenza Immunization Program (UIIP) was extended to include approved pharmacies. The MOHLTC stated "By expanding the services pharmacists deliver, like the ability to give the flu shot, we gave Ontarians better access to the services they need while strengthening our health care system. Pharmacists are highly trained and trusted health providers. So there is no better time than the present to benefit from all the services they can provide."

Adacel (Tdap) Vaccine for High School students

This is a "heads up" in anticipation of the added volume of calls the doctor's offices are likely to receive as a result of the health unit's upcoming enforcement of secondary school suspension for students who do not have up-to-date immunization status for tetanus, diphtheria and pertussis. The health unit plans to enforce the suspension process under the Immunization of School Pupils Act (ISPA), which requires children in school to complete the prescribed program of immunization in relation to each of the designated diseases (tetanus, diphtheria, polio, measles, mumps and rubella).

Notices and consents were sent out to each of the secondary school students who are eligible for the ten year booster, Adacel® (Tdap) vaccine. The calls that offices are likely to receive will be from students/parents wanting to verify receipt of the vaccine you have administered or to book an appointment to receive a vaccine. The Health Unit provided clinics each of the ten area high schools during the weeks of February 11 and February 18, 2013. In addition to these clinics, the Health Unit will be offering clinics the week before and the week of suspension. These clinics will run in Caledonia from 2 to 4:30p.m. on April 3, and 9:30a.m. to 12 noon on April 8 and 9, 2013. The Simcoe Health Unit office will also host clinics from 2 to 4:30p.m. on April 2, and 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on April 8 and 9, 2013.

For those students who do not have up-to-date status or have not provided an exemption affidavit, suspensions are slated to begin on April 9 2013. As always, the focus of the Health Unit is not on suspensions, but rather to promote the uptake of vaccination to those at risk students. We appreciate your cooperation and partnership in this endeavour.

The Health Unit has an ample supply of the Adacel® vaccine if you need to place an order.

If you have any questions, please contact a member of the Vaccine Preventable Disease Team at 519-426-6170 or 905-318-6623.

Immunization Record

Name

Date of Birth

_____ (yyy/mm/dd)

Ontario Health Card Number



Keeping the Health Unit informed

Please remind parents that it is their responsibility to update the Haldimand Norfolk Health Unit once their child receives any immunizations from their family doctor. This information may be faxed to the Health Unit at 519-426-4767, or individuals may update their immunization record on-line by visiting www.hnhu.org. Health Unit immunization records are available to clients upon request.

Maintaining vaccine potency and minimizing wastage

There are several key steps to ensuring that potent vaccines are administered to vaccine recipients:

- Monitor and document refrigerator temperatures twice daily (documenting the time of each temperature reading).
- Call your local health unit immediately to report vaccines that have been exposed to temperatures below +2° C or above +8° C.
- Never administer or discard vaccine until your local public health unit has assessed the situation.
- Spoiled or expired vaccine should always be returned to your source of supply (i.e., local public health unit).
- Please LABEL package contents with facility name so we can identify the source of return.

MMRV allocation update

The Ministry of Health and Long Term Care (MOHLTC) has notified Health Units that there continues to be a reduced supply of Priorx-Tetra (MMRV). The situation will continue to be monitored by the MOHLTC and Ontario Government Pharmaceutical and Medical Supply Service. We will provide updates as they become available.

How to transport vaccines outside of the office setting

- An insulated vaccine cooler must be pre-conditioned with coolant packs and a thermometer. This is required to pick up vaccine from the local public health unit and transport them to the office/facility.
- Vaccine must be protected from heat, cold, sunlight and fluorescent light at all times.
- An insulated container/cooler (which maintains the internal temperature within the +2° C and +8° C range with coolant packs) is used for:
 - Transporting vaccine
 - Temporary storage of vaccine during equipment maintenance periods (e.g., when cleaning or defrosting refrigerator)
- Emergency storage of vaccine (e.g., refrigerator malfunction or electricity disruption)
- Vaccines must never be transported in the trunk of a car due to the risk of exposure to temperature extremes

Communiqué is a newsletter distributed by the Haldimand-Norfolk Health Unit for those who work in the area of Vaccines and Vaccine Preventable Diseases. If you have ideas or suggestions of topics for future Communiqués, please contact the Health Unit.



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