



**Office of the  
Chief Medical  
Health Officer**

September 7, 2016

### **IMMUNIZATION UPDATE**

There have been a number of changes to the publicly-funded immunization programs in BC for children and adults. Please note highlights below. For up to date information about the usage of vaccines in the province, the BC Centre for Disease Control Immunization manual is available online at: <http://www.bccdc.ca/health-professionals/clinical-resources/communicable-disease-control-manual/immunization> or contact your local health unit or Medical Health officer.

#### **Change to school-age meningococcal vaccine schedule**

The meningococcal C conjugate vaccine (Men C-C) given in Grade 6 has been replaced with a quadrivalent conjugate meningococcal vaccine (Men- C- ACYW-135) given in **Grade 9**. This change provides protection through adolescence against more strains than the single antigen vaccine. There is no change to the infant meningococcal C vaccine schedule.

#### **Addition of HPV-9 vaccine for girls**

The human papilloma virus vaccine (HPV) given routinely to girls in Grade 6 has changed to a 9-valent vaccine from the previous 4-valent vaccine. HPV types 6, 11, 16, 18, 31, 33, 45, 52, and 58 will now be covered in the new vaccine. The targeted high risk male HPV vaccination program will remain unchanged.

#### **PVC 13 vaccine for adults**

A reminder that in BC, *publicly funded* pneumococcal conjugate vaccine (PVC 13) is available only to adults who are HIV positive or stem cell transplant recipients. The National Advisory Committee on Immunization (NACI) recommends PVC13 (in addition to polysaccharide pneumococcal vaccine (PPSV23)) to adults with immune-compromising conditions. Healthcare professionals can recommend PVC13 where appropriate, but patients are expected to access the vaccine through private means if they do not meet the BC eligibility criteria.

#### **Adult pertussis vaccination**

The adult pertussis booster (Tdap) is recommended but *not* presently publicly funded in BC. NACI's current recommendation on adult pertussis immunization is for adults to receive one dose of Tdap vaccine if they have not previously received pertussis-containing vaccines in adulthood. Adults who anticipate having regular contact with an infant should receive vaccine ideally administered at least 2 weeks before contact with the infant. In pregnancy, pertussis vaccine can be safely given after 26 weeks of gestation. Repeat pertussis vaccine in adulthood is not recommended, and differs from vaccination recommendations in other jurisdictions including the US.

#### **NORTH ISLAND 250.331.8591**

Charmaine Enns MD MHSc FRCPC  
355-11th Street  
Courtenay, BC V9N 1S4

#### **CENTRAL ISLAND 250.739.6304**

Paul Hasselback MD MSc FRCPC  
3rd Floor, 6475 Metral Drive  
Nanaimo, BC V9T 2L9

#### **SOUTH ISLAND 250.519.3406**

Richard Stanwick, CMHO  
MD MSc FRCPC FAAP

Murray Fyfe MD MSc FRCPC

Dee Hoyano MD FRCPC CCFP

430-1900 Richmond Avenue  
Victoria, BC V8R 4R2

#### **After Hours On Call 1.800.204.6166**

**Online Vaccine handling course for medical office assistants and other health professionals**

Proper storage of vaccines maintains the quality and efficacy of the vaccines we use for our patients. Trained and knowledgeable staff in vaccine providers' offices help ensure our investment in vaccines for our population. The BC Centres for Disease Control offers a free online course on vaccine storage and handling aimed at medical office assistants, nurses, pharmacists and physicians. The course includes cold chain procedures and managing cold chain breaks. Please encourage your staff to complete the training. Registration is available through this site: <http://www.bccdc.ca/health-professionals/education-development/immunization-courses/vaccine-storage-and-handling-course>.

**Influenza vaccine is coming!**

Influenza vaccine will be available in late September. More information about the annual immunization program as well as ordering instructions will be released in a few weeks.

Dee Hoyano MD, FRCPC  
Medical Health Officer