

December 27, 2007

The Honourable George Smitherman  
Minister of Health and Long-Term Care  
Hepburn Block, 10<sup>th</sup> Floor  
80 Grosvenor Street  
Toronto ON M7A 2C4

Dear Minister Smitherman:

**RE: Public Funding for Varicella Vaccine for all Susceptible Individuals**

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It is the position of the Board of Health of the Grey Bruce Health Unit that publicly funded varicella (chickenpox) vaccine should be available to any susceptible individual.

To that end, meeting on December 21, 2007, the Board of Health, for the Grey Bruce Health Unit passed resolution 2007-149 and we respectfully request your support of, and action on this matter.

**WHEREAS** the Government of Ontario has publicly funded vaccine against varicella for those children born on or after September 1, 2003 and for those people meeting the varicella high risk criteria; and

**WHEREAS** Health Canada has approved the use of single dose varicella vaccine for children ages 12 months to 12 years and two doses for susceptible individuals 13 years and older, and for all individuals meeting the high risk criteria; and

**WHEREAS** varicella disease and complications following the disease can have significant morbidity and, death particularly with severe invasive Group A streptococcus disease which, in previously healthy children, increases 40-60 fold after infection with chickenpox;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the Board of Health of the Grey Bruce Health Unit urges the Government of Ontario to include varicella vaccine as a publicly funded immunization for all susceptible individuals; and

**FURTHER THAT** copies of this resolution be forwarded to Minister of Finance, Acting Chief Medical Officer of Health, Acting Assistant Deputy Minister, alPHa, local Members of Provincial Parliament, all Ontario Boards of Health, all local Boards of Education and local organizations that work with children, for support.

Building Healthy Communities Together,

Hazel Lynn, MD, FCFP, MHSc  
Medical Officer of Health

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Copies to:

The Honourable Dwight Duncan, Minister of Finance  
Dr. David Williams, Chief Medical Officer of Health (A)  
Ms. Allison Stuart, Assistant Deputy Minister (A)  
Association of Local Public Health Agencies (alPHA)  
Larry J. Miller, MP Grey-Bruce-Owen Sound  
Bill Murdoch, MPP Bruce-Grey-Owen Sound  
Carol Mitchell, MPP Huron-Bruce  
Jim Wilson, MPP Simcoe-Grey  
Ontario Boards of Health, Chairs  
Ontario Medical Officers of Health  
Bruce MacPherson, Director of Education, Bruce-Grey Catholic District School Board  
Mary Anne Alton, Director of Education, Bluewater District School Board  
Local Children's Agencies