

PUBLIC HEALTH Notes

Working with you to protect and promote health and prevent disease



**October – December
2008**

Volume 18 (4)

What's Inside:

- Study Results: Universal Influenza Immunization Program
- Agency for Health Protection and Promotion
- New Ontario Public Health Standards
- Botulism Guide For Healthcare Professionals
- Prenatal Chlamydia and Gonorrhea Screening
- Mumps Catch-up Program For Post-Secondary Students
- Universal Influenza Immunization Program (UIIP)
- Reimmunization: Pneumococcal Polysaccharide Vaccine
- Influenza Vaccine Availability—Fall 2008

Inserts:

- 2008 Community Flu Clinic Schedule
- Blind Low Vision Early Intervention Program
- Eat Smart

STUDY RESULTS: UNIVERSAL INFLUENZA IMMUNIZATION PROGRAM

In 2000, Ontario initiated a *Universal Influenza Immunization Program* (UIIP) to provide free influenza vaccine for the entire population aged 6 months or older. Study results just released show Ontario's UIIP is associated with reduced influenza-associated mortality and health care use compared to targeted programs in other provinces. The greatest reduction was in the number of visits to doctors' offices for flu-like illness. The universal program also resulted in a marked increase in vaccination uptake among children and youth compared to high risk programs. This is an important finding since children with influenza secrete more of the virus and for a longer time than adults. The full research article is available online at www.plosmedicine.org.

AGENCY FOR HEALTH PROTECTION AND PROMOTION

Following the SARS inquiry, the Public Health Division of the MOHLTC was reviewed through Operation Health Protection (OHP). As a result, the government has launched Ontario's first provincial Agency for Health Protection and Promotion (Agency). The Agency brings together academic, clinical and government experts to create a centre of public health excellence in the province. The Agency will provide specialized research and knowledge in public health, focusing on infectious disease, infection control and prevention, health promotion, chronic disease and injury prevention, and environmental health. Visit the Agency's website at www.oahpp.ca to learn more about this exciting development in Ontario Public Health!

NEW ONTARIO PUBLIC HEALTH STANDARDS

As part of the OHP recommendations, the *Mandatory Health Programs and Services Guidelines* (1997) have been extensively reviewed and revised. The new *Ontario Public Health Standards*, based on best available evidence, are expected to be declared into regulation December 1, 2008. We are in full support of the new direction as well as the significant changes in accountabilities the Health Unit is required to report.

BOTULISM GUIDE FOR HEALTHCARE PROFESSIONALS

This reference covers food borne, wound and intestinal (infant and adult) forms of the disease. It includes symptoms, steps to follow when botulism exposure is suspected, and how to access the antitoxin. The document is available at: <http://www.health.gov.on.ca/english/providers/pub/disease/botulism.html>

References

Kwong, J.C., Stukel, T.A., McGeer, A.J., Upshur, R.E.G., et al. (2008). The effect of universal influenza immunization on mortality and health care use. *PloS Medicine* 5(10):e211 doi:10.1371/journal.pmed.0050211

Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care. (October 2008). *Diseases: Botulism*. Retrieved October 28, 2008 from <http://www.health.gov.on.ca/english/providers/pub/disease/botulism.html>

Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care. (May 2008). *Ontario Public Health Standards*. Retrieved October 28, 2008 from http://www.health.gov.on.ca/english/providers/program/pubhealth/manprog/mhpsg_mn.html.

Dr. Hazel Lynn
Medical Officer of Health

PRENATAL CHLAMYDIA AND GONORRHEA SCREENING

The recent release of the revised *Canadian Guidelines on Sexually Transmitted Infections* reminds physicians that routine chlamydia and gonorrhea screening is particularly important in pregnancy. The potential for complications in pregnancy outcomes and in the health of the newborn are significant. Maternal infection can affect gestational age at delivery and delivery options, and introduces the risk of vertical transmission from mother to newborn.

Chlamydia and gonorrhea screening has never been easier. Traditional screening using a cervical swab can be done during a routine prenatal Pap smear. If there are concerns around irritation of the cervix and swabbing must be avoided, a random urine specimen can be collected instead.

The Public Health Agency of Canada recommends all pregnant women be screened as part of a routine prenatal visit, regardless of STI risk factors. Any woman with ongoing STI risk factors throughout her pregnancy should be re-screened in each trimester.

Reference

Public Health Agency of Canada. (2008). *Canadian Guidelines on Sexually Transmitted Infections*. Ottawa, ON

MUMPS CATCH-UP PROGRAM FOR POST-SECONDARY STUDENTS

In 1996, a two-dose measles catch-up program for school-aged students was implemented using measles-only vaccine. As a result, individuals born between 1970 and 1995 may have received only one dose of mumps vaccine, making them potentially susceptible to mumps infection.

The National Advisory Committee on Immunization recommends students attending post-secondary institutions be offered a second dose of MMR vaccine if they have not already received two doses. Those not attending school are also eligible for the second dose of MMR vaccine.

Public Health encourages health professionals to:

- provide information to post-secondary students about this recommendation
- assess students and others for MMR vaccine eligibility
- provide access to catch-up doses of MMR vaccine

The mumps catch-up program will be delivered through health care providers, community health centres, and participating health units hosting post-secondary institution clinics.

Public Health will continue to provide second dose MMR vaccination to eligible attendees at community immunization clinics in Owen Sound, Walkerton and the Plex in Port Elgin. In 2009, Public Health will offer MMR vaccination to eligible students at Georgian College.

Reference

Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care, Public Health Division, Infectious Diseases Branch, Vaccine Preventable Diseases/Immunization Unit. (September 30, 2008). *Post-Secondary Mumps Immunization Catch-Up Program*.

UNIVERSAL INFLUENZA IMMUNIZATION PROGRAM (UIIP)

The UIIP package for physicians is located on the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care (MOHLTC) website at www.gettheflushot.ca in the Health Care Providers section. Enter **phy** as the username and **mohdoc** as the password.

Vaccine Strains for 2008-2009:

A/Brisbane/59/2007 (H1N1)-like strain

A/Brisbane/10/2007 (H3N2)-like strain

B/Florida/4/2006-like strain

OHIP Billing for Influenza Vaccine Administration:

Select OHIP billing code **G591** for influenza immunization only or OHIP billing code **G590** for influenza immunization with visit.

Vaccine Products:

Fluviral® - GlaxoSmithKline

Vaxigrip® - Sanofi Pasteur

Thimerosal-free and single dose formats are not available.

Updated Prequalification Process:

The MOHLTC requires proof of \$5 million liability insurance and submission of prequalification paperwork before influenza vaccine can be released to retirement homes, nursing agencies, workplaces and pharmacies participating in the UIIP. These sites must also have a documented cold chain inspection of vaccine refrigerators completed by the Health Unit.

Reference

Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care, Infectious Diseases Branch. (October 2008). *Important Notice Re: Universal Influenza Immunization Program (UIIP), 2008-2009 Season.*

REIMMUNIZATION: PNEUMOCOCCAL POLYSACCHARIDE VACCINE

Criteria for Reimmunization	Schedule
A single revaccination with pneumococcal polysaccharide vaccine is appropriate for those 2 years of age and older with: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• functional or anatomic asplenia or sickle cell disease• debilitating cardiorespiratory disease• hepatic cirrhosis• chronic renal failure or nephrotic syndrome• HIV infection and immunosuppression related to disease or therapy	1 dose after 3 years for those 10 years of age or younger at the time of revaccination OR 1 dose after 5 years for those 11 years of age or older at the time of revaccination

Reference

Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care. (2005). *Publicly funded immunization schedules for Ontario -- February 2005.*

INFLUENZA VACCINE AVAILABILITY – FALL 2008

Date Available	Recipient	Criteria
Mid-October	Long-term care facilities and hospitals	patients/residents at risk to develop influenza-related complications people/employees who may transmit influenza to high risk patients or residents
Mid-October	Physicians	high risk patients as above, including children 6-23 months patients 65 years of age
October 29	Public Health	Community Influenza Clinics -- see schedule
November 12	Nursing agencies, pharmacies, workplaces	Intended primarily for well individuals, 2-64 years of age

For the number of your patients and/or the names of those who received influenza vaccination at Public Health clinics, please contact Dianne Watson at 519-376-9420 ext. 1272. This information will be compiled in early 2009.

INFLUENZA VACCINE DOSAGE

Age	Vaccine type	Dose (ml)	No. of doses
6-35 months	split-virus	0.25	1 or 2*
3-8 years	split-virus	0.5	1 or 2*
≥ 9 years	split-virus	0.5	1
≥ 18 years	subunit or split virus	0.5	1

*Previously unvaccinated children < 9 years of age require two doses of the split-virus influenza vaccine, with an interval of 4 weeks. Eligible children < 9 years of age who have properly received one or more doses of trivalent influenza vaccine in the past are recommended to receive one dose per season thereafter.



PUBLIC HEALTH *Notes*

GET THE FLU SHOT...IT'S FREE!

Protect yourself & those around you.



2008 WALK - IN COMMUNITY FLU CLINICS NO APPOINTMENT NEEDED

Wed. Oct. 29	NEW Public Health Building 101 17th Street East	Owen Sound	10am – 8pm
Tues. Nov. 4	Peninsula Shores District School	Warton	4 – 8 pm
Wed. Nov. 5	Saugeen District Secondary School	Port Elgin	4 – 8 pm
Thurs. Nov. 6	Kincardine District Secondary School	Kincardine	4 – 8 pm
Wed. Nov. 12	Georgian Bay Secondary School	Meaford	4 – 8 pm
Thurs. Nov. 13	O.S.C.V.I.	Owen Sound	4 – 8 pm
Mon. Nov.17	Municipality of Northern Bruce Peninsula (formerly Lindsay Twp. Hall)	Hwy. 6 north of Lion's Head	4 – 8 pm
Tues. Nov. 18	Durham & District Community Centre	Durham	4 – 8 pm
Wed. Nov. 19	Chesley Community Centre	Chesley	4 – 8 pm
Thurs. Nov.20	Grey Highlands Secondary School	Flesherton	4 – 8 pm
Mon. Nov. 24	Lucknow Central Public School	Lucknow	4 – 8 pm
Wed. Nov. 26	Royal Canadian Legion	Owen Sound	4 – 8 pm
Thurs. Nov. 27	Walkerton District Secondary School	Walkerton	4 – 8 pm
Thurs. Dec. 04	Highpoint Community School	Dundalk	4 – 8 pm
Mon. Dec. 08	Hanover Heights Community School	Hanover	4 – 8 pm

You can also receive a Free Flu Shot from Public Health by calling 519-376-9420 or 1-800-263-3456 for an appointment at one of the clinics located in Owen Sound, Port Elgin or Walkerton.

www.publichealthgreybruce.on.ca