

**Ministry of Health
and Long-Term Care**

Chief Medical Officer of Health

Public Health Division
11th Floor, Hepburn Block
Queen's Park
Toronto ON M7A 1R3Telephone: (416) 212-3831
Facsimile: (416) 325-8412**Ministère de la Santé
et des Soins de longue durée**

Médecin hygiéniste en chef

Division de la santé publique
Édifice Hepburn, 11^e étage
Queen's Park
Toronto ON M7A 1R3Téléphone: (416) 212-3831
Télécopieur: (416) 325-8412**MEMORANDUM****TO: Health care providers****RE: Revisions to the *Publicly Funded Immunization Schedules for Ontario***

I am writing to provide you with information regarding the changes to the *Publicly Funded Immunization Schedules for Ontario (Schedules)*. The newly revised *Schedules* replaced the January 2009 version.

Revisions to the *Schedules* are based on the recommendations from the National Advisory Committee on Immunization (NACI), the Provincial Infectious Diseases Advisory Committee - Immunization (PIDAC-I), and feedback of a review committee comprised of selected public health nurses and associate medical officers of health.

A copy of the *Schedules* and supporting documents are enclosed.

The key changes and/or additions to the *Schedules* include the following:

Pneumococcal conjugate vaccine (Pneu-C-13)

- Replacement of Prevnar[®] 7 and Synflorix[®] vaccines with the Prevnar[®] 13 vaccine for infants and children less than five years of age for broader protection against invasive pneumococcal disease.
- A reduced dosing schedule for low risk children from a 4-dose to a 3-dose Pneu-C-13 series.
- High risk children will continue to receive a four-dose series with the Pneu-C-13 vaccine.
- Additional high risk eligibility criteria for Pneu-C-13 vaccine for children less than 5 years of age.
- Children starting immunization at one year to less than five years of age are eligible to receive Pneu-C-13 as per Schedule 2 and Tables 2 and 3.
- Both detailed schedules for low risk children (Table 2) and high risk children (Table 3) can be found on page 2 of the *Schedules*

Rotavirus vaccine (Rot-1)

- Publicly funded rotavirus vaccine, Rotarix™, has been added to the *Schedules*.
- Infants are eligible to receive the vaccine at two and four months of age, the two doses must be completed by 24 weeks of age.
- The first dose can be administered from the age of 6 weeks. There should be an interval of at least 4 weeks between doses. The administration of the two doses should be completed by the age of 24 weeks.

Varicella vaccine (Var)

- Two doses of varicella vaccine are now recommended for all children up to twelve years old.
- Children born on or after Jan 1, 2000 and who are at least 12 months of age are eligible to receive varicella vaccine.

Measles and mumps second dose eligibility

- A second dose of MMR is recommended for young adults (18-25 years), post secondary students, persons who received killed measles vaccine (1967-1970), health care workers or those who plan to travel internationally.

Measles, mumps and rubella vaccine (MMR)

- MMR vaccine should be administered at 12 months of age and the second dose of MMR should be given as MMRV between four to six years of age (preferably prior to school entry).

Measles, mumps, rubella and varicella vaccine (MMRV)

- Publicly funded MMRV vaccine, Priorix-Tetra™ has been added to the *Schedules*.
- The second dose of MMR and varicella vaccines should be given as MMRV between four to six years of age (preferably prior to school entry).

Meningococcal conjugate ACYW-135 vaccine (Men-C-ACYW)

- Since September 2009, unimmunized adolescents remain eligible after grade 7 until they are immunized with a single dose of Men-C-ACYW-135 vaccine.
- As recommended by NACI, children over two years of age with primary antibody deficiency are now eligible for one dose of Men-C-ACYW vaccine.

Hepatitis B vaccine (HB) school program

- There are now two HB products available for the school program, Engerix® and Recombivax®.
- Depending on the vaccine the second dose is given at four months after the first dose (Recombivax®) or six months after the first dose (Engerix®).

Tetanus, diphtheria and acellular pertussis vaccine (Tdap) for adults

- There are now Tdap two vaccines available, Adacel® and Boostrix®.
- The immunization program has been expanded to provide one lifetime dose of publicly funded Tdap to adults 19 to 64 years old who have not received an adolescent booster dose.

***Haemophilus influenzae* type b vaccine (Hib) high risk criteria**

- High risk criteria for Hib infection have been added for publicly funded *Haemophilus influenzae* type b vaccine.

Revised Supporting Documents

1. *Recommended and minimum ages and intervals between vaccine doses of publicly funded routine vaccines*: this document has been updated to assist immunizers in determining the correct interval between doses for routine vaccines.
2. *Visual poster depiction of Ontario's childhood immunization schedule*: this document provides an easy to follow visual aid to providers and parents regarding the routine immunization schedule.
3. *Giving your child more than one vaccine at a time*: this pamphlet answers questions parents may have about their infant or child receiving multiple vaccine doses at the same clinic visit.
4. *Questions and Answers* regarding the changes to the *Schedules*.

Please note that the *Schedules* will be posted on the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care website at www.ontario.ca/vaccines . Also, to order more *Schedules*, Q&As and posters, go to www.serviceontario.ca/publications or call 1-800-668-9938 (TTY: 1-800-268-7095). Additional copies of the revised immunization record card ("Yellow Card") can be ordered from your vaccine supply source (i.e., public health unit or the Ontario Government Pharmaceutical and Medical Supply Service [OGPMSS]).

Please share this information with the appropriate staff in your office/facility. Should you have any questions regarding this information, please contact your local public health unit. The address and phone number of each local public health unit can be found on the ministry's website at: www.health.gov.on.ca/english/public/contact/phu/phuloc_mn.html.



Arlene King, MD, MHSc, FRCPC
Chief Medical Officer of Health
Attachments

c: Medical Officers of Health
Associate Medical Officers of Health
Vaccine Preventable Disease Managers