

Provincial measles immunization campaign for school age children-- April to June 2019

Measles is no longer circulating locally, but outbreaks around the world increase the risk of cases being imported to BC. To protect our communities, the province has launched a measles vaccine catch-up campaign for school age children.

Although the majority of children in VCH have had two doses of MMR vaccine, we are missing vaccination records for 11% of school children. Parents of these children have been sent letters asking them to provide Public Health with their immunization records, or to take the opportunity to immunize their child. We are offering additional clinics through Public Health, however, families may wish to go to their family physician. Please support families who reach out to you for immunization records and/or MMR vaccine. To submit records to public health, parents can email a photo of their child's immunization records to cdinfo@vch.ca. The email should include the child's full name, date of birth, Care Card number, address and phone number. Parents can also drop off a paper copy at their school or at a local community health centre/public health unit.

Measles vaccine recommendations remain unchanged:

- All children should receive MMR at 12 months of age and at kindergarten entry (4-6 years).
- All adults born in 1970 or later, and health care workers born in 1957 or later, should have two documented doses of MMR vaccine.
- Adults born before 1970, and health care workers born before 1957, are considered immune to measles.

Many adults have an uncertain history of immunization or disease; please offer a single dose of vaccine if you think it is likely they are not immune from either infection or vaccination. **Please prioritize immunization for patients travelling to places where measles is circulating.**

Vaccine can be ordered through your local community health centre (CHC). Please place your orders based on expected demand over a **two-week period**. Orders can now be submitted using a Biological Request Form with your office's assigned ID #. If you do not have this form, call your local CHC or email us at vchregistrationcdc@vch.ca. Please save a copy of your unique Biological Products Request Form as it will be required to submit future vaccine requests.

To improve vaccine distribution, **we are encouraging all doctor's offices to provide us with an office email address.** Email will allow us to send copies of fulfilled vaccine requests and to notify your office when the order is ready for pickup. Please contact us at vchregistration@vch.ca to be added to our communication list. If you prefer to communicate by fax or phone, that option will remain available.

Influenza Season Over

The 2018-2019 influenza season was unusual with Influenza A/H1N1 early in the season, followed by A/H3N2. Influenza activity is finally on the decline, and the influenza vaccination campaign for this season is over. Thank you for your efforts to immunize your patients against influenza this year. Please return all unused influenza vaccine back to your local health unit.

You can reach a Medical Health Officer in Vancouver at 604.675.3900 Toll free at 1.855.675.3900
For public health emergencies after hours contact the Medical Health Officer on call at 604.527.4893

Vancouver Medical Health Officers
Dr. Patricia Daly (Chief Medical Health Officer)
Dr. Réka Gustafson, Dr. John Harding, Dr. James Lu, Dr. Emily Newhouse

To receive Physicians' Updates by email please contact us at: vchregistrationcdc@vch.ca