

Immunization Program Update

Routine immunizations for children 0-18 months of age: As you resume your in-office practice, please keep in mind that vaccines are available for ordering from your local public health unit. We appreciate your partnership in immunizing infants and young children.

Reminder that BC has moved back to a two-dose **Rotarix** (GSK) vaccine schedule with doses offered at 2 and 4 months of age. Infants who started series using **Rotateq** (Merck) will still need a total of three doses of any rotavirus vaccine.

Immunizations for school-age children:

In-school immunization of K, grade 6 and grade 9 students was temporarily suspended last year due to COVID response activities. All public health units are now organizing summer immunization clinics in order to start the catch-up of students who may have missed their routine vaccines in school. This exercise is expected to continue into the next school year. Parents can locate information about immunization clinics at this location: <http://www.vch.ca/school-age-immunizations>

If you are interested in immunizing school age patients in your practice, you can order these vaccines from your local public health unit.

Age	Routine vaccines for school age children	Administration
4-6 years of age	Tetanus/diphtheria/acellular Pertussis/IPV (Tdap-IPV)	IM deltoid
	Measles/Mumps/Rubella/Varicella (MMRV)	SC outer triceps
Grade 6	HPV9 (2 doses 6 months apart)	IM deltoid
Grade 9	Tetanus/Diphtheria/acellular pertussis (Tdap)	IM deltoid
	Meningococcal quadrivalent conjugate (Men-C-ACYW-135)	IM deltoid

Cold chain management and supplies: Summer is a good time for your office to remove expired influenza vaccine from your fridge. Please also check the remaining vaccines; any short-dated products should be moved up front and expired products should be returned to your local public health unit. Summer is also a good time to order cold chain supplies (coolers, water blankets) in preparation for this fall's influenza campaign.

Appropriate cold chain management is important to ensure that the vaccines we distribute to your office will protect your patients. Please designate a staff person, and back up if available, to manage vaccine cold chain in your office. [Vaccine Storage and Handling Course](#) is a short course available at the BCCDC website and is highly recommended for your designated office staff.

COVID-19 immunization campaign: This campaign is progressing well with 80% of VCH residents 12 and older already having received one dose. Any individual who has not had the opportunity to get their first dose can get registered (1-833-838-2323 or getvaccinated.gov.bc.ca/s/) to get an appointment or drop-in at any of the VCH mass immunization clinics noted at this web address: <http://www.vch.ca/covid-19/covid-19-vaccine> . Thanks for promoting immunization to your patients.

You can reach a Medical Health Officer 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 Coastal Health Medical Health Officers

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