



Office of the Chief Medical Health Officer

Immunization Update September 2017

HPV program expansion and changes

Beginning this school year (2017-18), boys in grade 6 (born in 2006 or later) will now be eligible to receive provincially funded HPV vaccine. Grade 6 children will be offered the vaccine through school immunization programs, and can also be vaccinated at public health units. The HPV vaccine remains available for boys and men 9-26 years of age who are gay/MSM, questioning their sexual identity, in care of the Ministry of Children and Family, or street involved, as well as women born in 1994 or later. The monovalent HPV9 vaccine has replaced the other HPV vaccines (HPV4 and HPV2) in provincially funded programs. Physicians and other immunization providers can order HPV vaccine from public health units for eligible patients.

High Dose Hepatitis B Vaccine

People with certain immunocompromising conditions respond better to higher doses of hepatitis B vaccine. The table below summarizes those eligible for higher dose vaccine.

Table with 2 columns: Indications for high dose Hepatitis B vaccine, Recommended Adult dosing. Rows include Hematopoietic stem cell transplant (HSCT) recipients, Congenital immunodeficiency, Solid organ transplant recipients (pre- and post transplant), HIV, Chronic kidney disease including pre-dialysis and dialysis, and Advanced liver disease (e.g. cirrhosis).

See the BC Immunization Manual for specific dosing information for children. For those receiving routine Hepatitis B vaccination including children, post-vaccination serology is not necessary or recommended.

Use of pneumococcal conjugate vaccine (PCV) (Prevnar 13®) and pneumococcal polysaccharide vaccine (PPV23) (Pneumovax 23®)

Pneumococcal conjugate vaccine is increasingly being used in adults with chronic health conditions including HIV, stem cell transplants (the only publicly funded indications in BC), and non-funded indications, including use of immunosuppressive therapies, asplenia and congenital immunodeficiency.

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If you are planning to immunize with both PCV vaccine AND PPV23, the PCV dose/series should be completed first, with the PPV23 dose given at least 8 weeks after the last PCV dose. If PPV23 has already been administered, PCV should be given at least *one year* after the last PPV23 dose. Appropriate spacing of these vaccines ensures better immunogenicity and protection.

Meningococcal Quadrivalent Conjugate (Groups A,C,Y, W-135) Booster in Adolescents

Adolescents born in 2002 or later are eligible to receive the quadrivalent vaccine in grade 9 or later, if not already received. This vaccine replaced the meningococcal C vaccine in the routine grade 9 schedule, so there may be young adults who would benefit from the broader coverage of the quadrivalent vaccine and may have missed the opportunity to be vaccinated in grade 9. Vaccine can be ordered for your practice or patients may be referred to local health units to be immunized.

Vaccine Safety Infographic

Vaccine safety is a common concern for patients, parents, and those providing vaccines. ImmunizeBC has produced an online, interactive infographic that explains vaccine components, why they are used, and their safety profile. Use this as an educational tool for yourself, colleagues, and students, as well as patients. The infographic may be found here: http://immunizebc.ca/infographic-vaccine-safety/story_html5.html. The ImmunizeBC website also has more detailed public information about vaccine safety.

Online education for immunization practice & vaccine management from the BCCDC

[Pearls for Immunization Practice](#) is a brief course for family physicians and other community vaccine providers interested in strengthening their immunization practice. The [Vaccine Storage and Handling Course](#) is a one hour course for MOAs and other staff to help improve office vaccine inventory management and ensure vaccine quality. Both courses have been developed with family physician input, and are highly recommended. Free on-line registration is available at the BCCDC site <http://www.bccdclearning.ca>.

Immunization questions?

Please call your Medical Health Officer or a public health nurse at your local health unit with your clinical questions. In addition, you can check out the [BC Immunization Manual](#), as the format has changed for ease of access on mobile devices.