

TO: Chair and Members of the Board of Health

FROM: Christopher Mackie, Medical Officer of Health

DATE: 2016 Sept 15

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## **VACCINE PREVENTABLE DISEASES STANDARD COMPLIANCE 2016-2017 AND PROGRAM CHANGES**

### **Recommendations**

*It is recommended that the Board of Health receive information about the following Vaccine Preventable Disease program changes:*

- *Prioritization of assessment and suspension requirements under the Immunization of School Pupils Act for the 2016-2017 school year.*
- *Expansion of the publicly funded Human Papillomavirus Virus (HPV) program.*

### **Key Points**

- MLHU will assess immunization records for all students in the 2016-2017 school year according to the Immunization of School Pupils Act. Suspensions, if needed will be prioritized for the 7 and 17 year old age groups.
- Publicly funded Human Papillomavirus Virus (HPV) will be offered to all Grade 7 students through school-based immunization clinics beginning in September 2016

### **Immunization of School Pupils Act: Assessment and Suspension Requirements**

As a result of implementation of Panorama and revisions to the Immunization of School Pupils Act (ISPA) in 2014, the Vaccine Preventable Diseases program has been non-compliant with requirements to assess student records for the past two school years. [Report No. 021-15](#) at the March 2015 Board of Health meeting and [Report No. 046-15](#) at the July 2016 Board of Health meeting describe this. In the 2015-2016 school year, the following activities were carried out:

- Immunization records for all secondary school students were assessed, students were notified if they were missing vaccines and school-based immunization clinics were held to offer students an opportunity to receive missing immunizations. The process did not include suspension of students from school if records were not complete.
- The immunization records for students in Grades 2 and 8 were screened and followed-up to ensure the immunization information record was complete or an appropriate exemption was on file at the Health Unit. Students whose information was not complete at the end of the process received suspension notices and were suspended from school until the information was received by the Health Unit. Immunization records for the remainder of students in the elementary school could not be screened.

Many of the issues (eg. back of data entry, resolution of duplicate records for school aged children and youth) related to Panorama implementation should be resolved by the end of 2016; however the changes to the ISPA continue to cause workload challenges because of the volume of records missing information. There is no additional Ministry funding available to meet this challenge.

Although MLHU is not able to meet the ISPA requirements fully, vaccine records for all school students aged 4-17 years will be assessed in the 2016-2017 school year and parents/students will be notified if immunization information is missing. Suspension activities will be prioritized for students ages 7 and 17 years. This ensures students starting school and leaving school are fully protected. The Ministry, through the Accountability Indicators, targets these two age groups.

### **Expansion of Human Papillomavirus (HPV) Publicly Funded Program**

Ontario is expanding its publicly funded immunization program to offer HPV vaccine to boys as well as girls. Currently the HPV vaccine is offered free of charge in Ontario schools to Grade 8 girls. Under the expanded program, the vaccine will be offered to all students in Grade 7 through school-based clinics. Female students in Grade 8 will also be offered the vaccine in the transitional 2016-2017 school year. Hepatitis B vaccine and the quadrivalent meningococcal (Menactra) vaccine will continue to be offered to Grade 7 students.

The publicly funded HPV program has also been expanded to include males up to the age of 26 years of age who identify as gay, bisexual, transgendered or men who have sex with men.

This report was prepared by Marlene Price, Manager, Vaccine Preventable Diseases Team; Stephen Turner, Director of Environmental Health and Infectious Diseases; and Dr. Gayane Hovhannisyan, Associate Medical Officer of Health.



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<p><b>This report addresses</b> the following requirement(s) of the Ontario Public Health Standards: Vaccine Preventable Diseases Standard, requirements # 7 and # 13.</p>
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