

**Information for Parents/Guardians
Immunization of Children with Incomplete Immunization Records**

York Region Community and Health Services have determined that your child's immunization record is incomplete. We recommend that an attempt should be made to obtain the child's immunization records from the previous health care provider. Written documentation of immunization is preferred; in some instances, telephoned information from the health care provider with the exact dates of vaccinations may be accepted. The greatest concern with over immunization relates to vaccines containing tetanus, diphtheria, and/or pertussis because of the possibility of a local reaction to the vaccine at the injection site.

Although the vaccines administered in other countries can be generally assumed to be adequate, immunization schedules vary and the age at immunization (e.g. against measles), number of doses and intervals between doses should be reviewed with the child's doctor in determining the need for additional doses of vaccines.

Routine blood testing of children without records to determine immunity is not practical. Instead, the following approach is recommended:

1. All children lacking written documentation of immunization should be started on a primary immunization schedule as appropriate for their age.
2. MMR, polio and Hib conjugate vaccines can be given without concern about prior receipt of these vaccines because harmful effects of repeated vaccination have not been demonstrated.
3. Children in whom a serious local reaction develops after administration of vaccines containing tetanus diphtheria, and/or pertussis should be individually assessed before they receive additional doses of these vaccines. Blood tests may show the level of protection against tetanus and diphtheria and thus guide the need for continued immunization.

Reference: Canadian Immunization Guide, Health Canada, Sixth Edition, 1998, pp. 41-42.

Children whose immunization records remain incomplete will need to be immunized according to the recommended schedule, in order to update their immunization record. If they have started their immunization schedule, they may be temporarily exempted from school suspensions. However, they must complete their immunization series in order to avoid future suspensions. Please inform York Region Community and Health Services of any vaccines that your child is given.

If you have further questions or concerns about immunization, please call the Immunization line at 1-877-794-1880.

Sincerely,



Isabel Payne, RN, BScN
Manager, Community Clinics
Infectious Diseases Control Division