PHO Releases Hep B Vaccine Resource to Aid with Immunizations Update to York Region health care providers as of September 20, 2022

Public Health Ontario (PHO) has recently released a resource to support health care providers in their assessment of hepatitis B (HB) immunization schedules to provide catch-up to individuals who have not yet completed their (HB) immunization series.

The HB resource from PHO can help you assess your patient's needs and determine what their next step should be to complete their HB immunization. The guide provides technical advice to reinforce immunization practices, catch-up principles, and HB immunization schedules as per the Canadian Immunization Guide and the Publicly Funded Immunization Schedules for Ontario.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, many York Region residents have missed routine immunizations.

York Region Public Health (YRPH) has resumed <u>in-school clinics</u> to vaccinate children against Hepatitis B, Human Papillomavirus (HPV) and Meningococcal (Men-ACYW) disease to help students catch-up on doses missed during the pandemic.

In addition to school clinics, eligible students can access these important immunizations through YRPH Community Clinics for students in Grade 7 to 12. Additional students may be eligible through the Ministry of Health's expanded eligibility criteria for student immunizations as outlined in the Guidance for Routine & Catch up Immunization Services

Other routine childhood immunizations that children typically get through their doctor's office (e.g., polio, meningococcal C-C, measles, mumps, rubella, etc.) remain an important tool to support the health and safety of children and the community and are required under the *Immunization of School Pupils Act*.

Please review your patients' immunization records with them to ensure they are up to date on all routine vaccinations. Publicly-funded immunizations can be ordered through YRPH by visiting our <u>Vaccination Information for Healthcare Professionals page</u>. Please remind families to inform YRPH of any doses received using our <u>online immunization form</u> to ensure their record on file is current.

In addition, you can also administer student catch up vaccines in your practice for students who are unable to be immunized in a York Region Public Health community or school immunization clinic. Use the Grade 7 School Vaccines Order Form to order HB, HPV and Meningococcal C-ACYW-135 vaccines and submit the form to vaccineinformationline@york.ca or fax to 1-866-258-2026. Please encourage your patients or their parents/guardians to report doses received to York Region Public Health for their immunization records.

Contact York Region Public Health

We are here to help. If you have any questions, call our dedicated health care professional line at **1-877-464-9675 ext. 77280** (8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday to Friday) or visit <u>york.ca/healthprofessionals</u>

We Are Public Health

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