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Health Care Provider Update

Date: Thursday, October 12, 2023
Pages: 2
To: Health Care Providers
From: Dr. Karalyn Dueck, Medical Officer of Health
Re: **Routine Immunizations and Reporting; Respiratory Season Update**

Routine Immunizations and Reporting

Ontario's *Immunization of School Pupils Act (ISPA)* requires that children and adolescents attending primary or secondary school be appropriately immunized against designated diseases, unless they have a [valid exemption](#). All immunization requirements for school attendance align with [Ontario's publicly funded immunization schedule](#).

A large number of students in Lambton County do not have required *ISPA* immunizations reported to Lambton Public Health (LPH), with risk of suspension from school as a result.

Please remind parents/guardians it is their responsibility to report their child's immunization records to LPH. This can be done by directing them to GetTheVaccine.ca.

Please see [Ontario's publicly funded immunization schedule](#) to verify that your clients have received all necessary immunizations.

Additionally, LPH will be conducting Grade 7 Immunization Clinics in schools this fall for students to receive HB, Men-C-ACYW, and HPV-9 vaccines.

Health care providers can order these immunizations to provide to their clients by visiting LambtonPublicHealth.ca.

A free one hour module; [Avoiding the resurgence of vaccine-preventable diseases in children](#), for primary care clinicians, pediatricians, and public health professionals is available to provide strategies to identify clients who are not fully immunized, achieve catch-up for missing vaccines based on current guideline recommendations, and address barriers to vaccine uptake.

Respiratory Season Update

Vaccines

REMINDER: Flu Vaccine pick-up begins on Wednesday, October 11th. You may pick up your order between 8:30 am and 4:30 pm. Please pick up your order as soon as possible, as we have limited fridge space.

RSV Vaccine (Arexvy) is the first publicly funded RSV vaccine for those 60 years of age and older living in long-term care homes, elder care lodges, and some retirement homes. A separation of 14 days between the RSV vaccine and other vaccines is currently in place to better monitor adverse events in the newly launched vaccine. The RSV vaccine will NOT be available at any public health clinic.

Moderna [SPIKEVAX] XBB.1.5 (andusomeran) mRNA COVID-19 Vaccine is now being administered for high risk patients, six months of age and older, at community clinics throughout Lambton County and can be ordered through LPH. Please see the updated order form attached, or download the [COVID-19 Vaccine order form](#) from the LPH website. Combination COVID-19 and Flu Vaccine community clinics for the general population will begin Monday, October 30th. See attached News Release for more information.

[Health Canada](#) has authorized the use of the **Pfizer [COMIRNATY] Omicron XBB.1.5 (raxtozinameran) mRNA COVID-19 Vaccine**, for individuals six months of age and older. Shipments have not yet been received at local public health units. An updated order form will follow once it is available.

Rapid Antigen Tests

Health Care Providers are invited to order rapid antigen tests for patients through the Provincial Antigen Screening Program (PASP). This is in addition to orders placed for RATs for their employees. Providers can enroll [here](#) and orders will be placed through the [PPE Supply Portal](#). For assistance in creating an account or accessing an existing account, or for any questions about orders and shipment, please contact sco.supplies@supplyontario.ca. Email PASP@ontario.ca for questions about the PASP expansion.

Reporting: Positive rapid antigen test results do not need to be reported to a public health unit except if they are associated with a suspected or confirmed outbreak in a highest risk setting and are not confirmed with a PCR test. See the [Provincial Antigen Screening Program](#) for more details.

For information on the available **COVID-19 Antiviral Treatments**, assessing your patients, and testing please see the [Ontario Health September 18, INFOBulletin.Update: COVID-19 antiviral treatments and testing](#).

For any questions, please contact Lambton Public Health at 519-383-8331