

Date: Tuesday, April 2, 2024
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To: Health Care Providers
From: Dr. Karalyn Dueck, Medical Officer of Health
Re: **Switch from Pediacel[®] to Pentacel[®]; Spring 2024 COVID-19 Vaccination; Cold Chain Inspections; Online Vaccine Ordering Available**

Switch from Pediacel[®] to Pentacel[®]

Sanofi Vaccines Canada is discontinuing Pediacel[®] and will be transitioning to Pentacel[®] vaccine. The formulation of these vaccines is nearly identical and fully interchangeable. There are no safety concerns with the safety and quality of the Pediacel[®] vaccine, for this change. During the transition period, Pediacel[®] vaccine can still be used until the expiration date.

Pediacel[®] and Pentacel[®] are both a combination vaccine for diphtheria, tetanus, acellular pertussis, inactivated polio, and haemophilus influenzae type b (DTaP-IPV-Hib). For routine immunization in Ontario, DTaP-IPV-Hib combination vaccine is recommended as a 4-dose series, with a vaccine dose at 2, 4, 6, and 18 months of age, in the [publicly funded schedule](#).

Pentacel[®] requires reconstitution of Act-HIB[®] with the Quadracel[®] vaccine.

Important note: Since DTaP-IPV (Quadracel[®]) is no longer used in the province's publicly funded immunization schedule and has been replaced by Tdap-IPV (Adacel[®]-Polio or Boostrix[®]-Polio), Pentacel[®] should **not** be used as **separate** products (i.e., do **not** use Hib (Act-HIB[®]) and DTaP-IPV (Quadracel[®]) separately for routine immunizations).

See the [product monograph](#) and attached Q & A document for more information.

Orders for DTaP-IPV-Hib will continue to be filled with Pediacel[®] until inventory is depleted.

Spring 2024 COVID-19 Vaccination

Updated [COVID-19 Vaccine Guidance](#) has been posted on the Ministry of Health website.



Ontario's Spring COVID-19 vaccine campaign will run from April to June 2024. In alignment with the provincial campaign, those eligible for an additional dose of a COVID-19 XBB.1.5 vaccine this spring are advised to visit a participating [pharmacy](#) or health care provider. Children ages 6 months to 11 years may book an appointment for a COVID-19 vaccine with Lambton Public Health. Appointments for children in this age group can be booked online at [GetTheVaccine.ca](https://www.getthevaccine.ca).

The Ministry of Health, in alignment with [NACI](#), is recommending that the following individuals may receive a COVID-19 XBB.1.5 vaccine dose this spring:

- Adults 65 years of age and older;
- Adult residents of long-term care homes and other congregate living settings for seniors;
- Individuals 6 months of age and older who are moderately to severely immunocompromised (due to an underlying condition or treatment);
- Individuals 55 years and older who identify as First Nations, Inuit, or Metis and their non-Indigenous household members who are 55 years and older.

Eligible individuals may receive a COVID-19 XBB.1.5 vaccine in Spring 2024, if 6 months from the previous COVID-19 vaccine dose or known SARS-CoV-2 infection (whichever is later).

All other individuals are not currently recommended to receive a COVID-19 vaccine dose in Spring 2024 and should wait until further Ministry of Health recommendations. This includes individuals who are not at higher risk of severe illness from COVID-19 who did not receive a COVID-19 XBB.1.5 vaccine in Fall 2023, unless they are specifically recommended to receive a dose by their health care provider.

To order COVID-19 vaccines or to become a COVID-19 vaccine administration site, visit our website: [Vaccine Resources for Health Care Professionals](#).

Cold Chain Inspections

Beginning in April, Lambton Public Health (LPH) will begin conducting annual cold chain inspections. Staff may visit unannounced or call ahead of time to book an appointment.

As a reminder, proper vaccine storage, handling, and administration practices ensure that vaccines retain their optimal potency. Below are four important reminders to assist with the continued success of our immunization partnership:

- **Check vaccine refrigerators**
 - Ensure regular maintenance, completed at least once annually.
- **Check alarm system**
 - Annual testing of the vaccine refrigerator alarm systems should be done with the regular maintenance of the refrigerator.

- **Check accuracy of Temperature Monitoring Devices**
 - All temperature monitoring devices (for example, min/max thermometers, data loggers) used for vaccine temperature monitoring should be checked for accuracy at least once annually.

- **Change Batteries**
 - Change all temperature monitoring device batteries every 6 months.

For more information, visit the LPH website: [Vaccine Resources for Health Care Professionals](#)

Online Vaccine Ordering Available

With new online vaccine order forms and the ability to upload temperature logs directly, ordering vaccines is now faster and easier. Forms are available for [ordering vaccines](#) (including an option to upload temperature logs with your order), [returning vaccines](#), and [submitting temperature logs without an order](#).

[Further vaccine information](#) is available regarding routine immunization schedules, reporting of immunizations, exemptions, reporting of adverse events, how to become a new vaccine site or COVID-19 administrator, cold chain incidents, links to other resources, and contact details.

In addition to vaccine resources, LPH's [new healthcare professionals web pages](#) includes reporting forms, referral forms, and links to clinical guidance documents. These webpages have been developed to provide a simplified method for health professionals to access helpful public health tools and information.