

**Date:** Thursday, July 4, 2024  
**Pages:** 3  
**To:** Health Care Providers  
**From:** Dr. Dueck, Medical Officer of Health  
**Re:** Pneumococcal Vaccine Program Update; Poliovirus Vaccine Reminder; COVID-19 Vaccine Spring Campaign Complete; New Resources about Vaping and Nicotine Products; Proper Sharps Disposal for Prescription Medication; Healthy Growth and Development Screening and Resources

---

## Pneumococcal Vaccine Program Update

The Ontario Ministry of Health's publicly funded pneumococcal vaccine program has announced the pneumococcal vaccine program will transition to **new pneumococcal vaccines**:

- **Pneumococcal 15-valent conjugate (Pneu-C-15) (Vaxneuvance)**
- **Pneumococcal 20-valent conjugate (Pneu-C-20) (Pprevnar 20)**

These two new pneumococcal conjugate vaccines will provide broader protection against invasive pneumococcal disease (IPD) compared to Pneu-C-13 (Pprevnar 13) and longer-term protection than Pneu-P-23 (Pneumovax 23), which are currently used in the provincial program.

The Pneu-C-15 (Vaxneuvance) vaccine is for use in the routine pediatric pneumococcal vaccine program and the Pneu-C-20 (Pprevnar 20) vaccine is for use in the high-risk programs and the routine adult program for ages 65+ years. Please note eligibility for these programs is not changing and re-vaccination of those who have already received all eligible publicly funded pneumococcal vaccines (Pneu-P-23 and/or Pneu-C-13) is not part of the product transition.

**Please see the attached Ministry of Health fact sheets and Q&As for more information.**

Lambton Public Health (LPH)'s [online order form](#) has been updated with these new products. The program transition is planned for **July 29, 2024**, however, providers may place an order and begin administering these vaccines **as soon as they are received**. Upon receipt of doses of Pneu-C-15 and Pneu-C-20, **please return unused Pneu-C-13 and/or Pneu-P-23 to LPH**. Unused Pneu-C-13 and/or Pneu-P-23 are considered non-reusable vaccine (not required to be maintained under cold chain when returned); the Ministry will receive credit for unused vaccine.

## Poliovirus Vaccine Reminder

As indicated in the May LPH Health Care Provider Update, the Ontario Ministry of Health is recommending children who received bivalent oral poliovirus vaccine (bOPV) to complete their



polio vaccine series with an inactivated polio vaccine (IPV) or an IPV-containing vaccine using an age-appropriate schedule, to ensure protection against all three poliovirus types.

Please note that providers can order IPV vaccine (IMOVAX® POLIO) if the child is up to date on all other vaccines, rather than administering a combined vaccine. IMOVAX® POLIO vaccine is available under the “General and School Vaccines” section of LPH’s [online vaccine order form](#).

Reminder: For individuals ages 4 years and older, the 3<sup>rd</sup> dose of IPV must be given **at least 6 months** after the 2<sup>nd</sup> dose. Refer to the [Publicly Funded Immunization Schedules for Ontario](#) (Table 13) and [Recommendations for Children Previously Immunized with Oral Polio Vaccine: Qs & As for Immunizations](#) (Table 1) for more information about vaccine intervals.

### **COVID-19 Vaccine Spring Campaign Complete**

The Ontario Ministry of Health’s COVID-19 vaccine spring campaign ended June 30, 2024. After this time, individuals are recommended to wait until Fall 2024 for further guidance. Exceptions include individuals initiating/completing a primary series, or if recommended by their health care provider (and meet the minimum interval of three months).

LPH will continue to provide pediatric clinics for children requiring a primary COVID-19 vaccine series. There will be limited availability of COVID-19 vaccines in pharmacies between July 1<sup>st</sup> and the start of the Fall 2024 campaign, however, pharmacies can order these vaccines through the exceptional orders process. More information is available at [GetTheVaccine.ca](#).

### **New Resources about Vaping and Nicotine Products**

LPH’s Health Care Professionals Portal includes resources and links to evidence-informed recommendations to assist health care providers’ discussions on vaping and nicotine products. Health care providers can share these resources with their patients, regarding:

- How to support conversations with patients who are current users of e-cigarettes or who may be considering using e-cigarettes.
- Emerging issues such as nicotine pouches in Canada that do not currently fall under the scope of smoking and vaping regulations, to which youth may have access.
- Patient resources and tools to assist patients quit vaping.

These resources can be found by visiting LPH’s Health Care Professionals Portal [Substance Use](#) section under the Vaping and Nicotine Products drop down.

### **Proper Sharps Disposal for Prescription Medication**

LPH has developed new resources to support the proper disposal of prescription medications, which can be shared with patients. These resources include:

- How to safely dispose of pharmaceuticals and sharps
- Sharps disposal locations throughout Lambton County

Health care providers can share these resources by visiting LPH’s Health Care Professional Portal [Substance Use](#) section under the Opioids - Harm Reduction Program drop down.

## **Healthy Growth and Development Screening and Resources**

New resources are available for connecting to Healthy Growth and Development support from LPH. Consider displaying these resources in your office and providing referrals to these LPH services to your patients who are or may become pregnant:

- Healthy Growth and Development Services Poster
- Prenatal Classes Poster
- Healthy Babies, Healthy Children (HBHC) Poster

HBHC is a free and voluntary service to assist navigating a healthy pregnancy, infant attachment, growth and development, feeding and nutrition, parental health, and linking to services in the community. Please continue to conduct HBHC screenings for all patients and families with newborns to school age children, and [make referrals to LPH](#).

Through HBHC screening in the Lambton area, 61.9% of families have been identified as having potential risk factors that can impact healthy development. By offering HBHC screening universally to all families, parents and guardians are connected to LPH support that helps to promote optimal, healthy childhood development.

These resources and others can be found by visiting LPH's Health Care Professionals Portal [Resource Ordering](#) section under the Maternal/Child Health heading.