

HALTON REGION PUBLIC HEALTH • Office of the Medical Officer of Health

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TO: Halton Physicians, Nurse Practitioners, Emergency Departments

FROM: Dr. Deepika Lobo, Associate Medical Officer of Health

DATE: September 16, 2020

RE: New Ministry of Health Guidance for Immunization Services During COVID-19

QUICK FACTS

- The Ministry of Health has released [Guidance for Immunization Services During COVID-19](#) which can also be accessed at halton.ca/physicians, and will be available on the [Ministry of Health's website](#). This document provides primary care providers with immunization guidance during the time of COVID-19, including screening, IPAC, prioritization and more.
- Primary care providers are responsible for providing essential services (which includes immunizations) or make alternate arrangements for their patients to receive these services.

KEY MESSAGES FOR HEALTHCARE PROVIDERS

- **Influenza vaccination** - for additional guidance specifically related to providing the influenza vaccine, please see the National Advisory Committee on Immunization (NACI) statement [Guidance for Influenza Vaccine Delivery in the Presence of COVID-19](#)
- **Shingles Vaccine Extended Eligibility**
A single dose of Zostavax® II vaccine is publicly funded for individuals 65-70 years of age. Eligibility has been extended for individuals that will be turning 71 in 2020 or 2021 (born in 1949 or 1950). They will remain eligible for the dose until December 31, 2021.
- **Hepatitis B, HPV and Meningococcal-C-ACYW135 Vaccine Eligibility**
Eligibility has been extended for both the Hep B and HPV vaccines in the school-aged population:
 - Students who will be entering grade 9 this 2020-2021 school year (born in 2006), who would have been eligible to receive the publicly funded Hepatitis B vaccine until August 31 2020, will now be eligible to receive this vaccine publicly funded until August 31, 2021.
 - Female students who graduated this past 2019-2020 school year (born in 2002) will have until August 31, 2021 to complete their publicly funded HPV-9 series.

Due to COVID-19 impacting Public Health's ability to deliver school-based Hepatitis B, HPV and Meningococcal-C-ACYW135 vaccines, patients within the grade 7 and 8 cohorts (born in 2008 and 2007) may contact you for immunization. You can order these vaccines for your office through the [Special Order Vaccine Online Request Form](#). Halton Public Health is currently in the process of planning to provide the grade 7 vaccines for the 2020-2021 school year. Please visit halton.ca/immunize for updates.

Please report all suspected/confirmed cases of [Diseases of Public Health Significance](#) to Public Health immediately by calling 311, 905-825-6000 or toll free at 1-866-442-5866.

PLEASE POST IN EMERGENCY DEPARTMENTS AND PHYSICIAN LOUNGES – IF YOU CAN'T ACCESS HYPERLINKS OR DIDN'T RECEIVE IN FULL, PLEASE EMAIL DOCTORS@HALTON.CA FOR ELECTRONIC COPY.