

HALTON REGION HEALTH DEPARTMENT
OFFICE OF THE ASSOCIATE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
TEL: 905-825-6000 FAX: 905-825-1444

TO: Halton Physicians
Medical Chiefs of Staff: Joseph Brant Hospital, Halton Healthcare (Oakville, Milton and Georgetown Hospitals)
Chairs of: Family Practice, Paediatrics, Internal Medicine, Emergency, Obstetrics and Gynaecology, Surgery
Chief of Laboratory Services and Infection Control Practitioners

POST IN: Emergency Department and Physicians Lounge

FROM: Dr. Julie Emili, Associate Medical Officer of Health

DATE: August 2, 2018

RE: Ontario Rotavirus Immunization Program - Transitioning to RotaTeq® (Rot-5) pentavalent rotavirus vaccine

Ontario is transitioning from the monovalent rotavirus vaccine, Rotarix® (Rot-1) to the pentavalent rotavirus vaccine RotaTeq® (Rot-5) in the infant rotavirus immunization program.

Ontario is switching products as a result of the federally coordinated vaccine purchasing program. The National Advisory Committee on Immunization recommends routine infant rotavirus vaccination with either of the rotavirus vaccine products. They do not preferentially recommend one product over the other. Both products are live attenuated vaccines that are given orally. They differ in their authorized schedules: RotaTeq® is a **3 dose series** and Rotarix® is a **2 dose series**.

RotaTeq® vaccine doses are routinely given at 2, 4 and 6 months of age. Ideally, infants should start and complete their series with the same product, whenever possible. In the event that Rotarix® is not available for infants who started their series with this product or if the product used for the first dose is unknown, RotaTeq® can be used, for a total of three doses.

Halton Region Health Department anticipates receiving the first shipment of RotaTeq® in early August. Please continue to order rotavirus vaccine doses through your regular mechanisms. We will put a notice in your order package when we start to supply you with RotaTeq® instead of Rotarix®. For additional information on the Ontario publicly funded rotavirus program and product details, please contact the Halton Region Health Department (Dial 311, 905-825-6000 or toll free at 1-866-442-5866).

Please report all suspected or confirmed cases of [Diseases of Public Health Significance](#) (formerly Reportable Diseases) to the Halton Region Health Department as soon as possible. Diseases marked * should be reported immediately by telephone (24 hours a day, 7 days a week) or fax (Mon-Fri, 8:30 am – 4:30 pm only). Other diseases can be reported the next working day. Dial 311, 905-825-6000 or toll free at 1-866-442-5866. For general information, please visit halton.ca/physicians. To sign up for important updates by email, visit halton.ca/physicianupdates.

If any link provided in this memo does not work, please cut and paste it into your web browser.