

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

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TO: Halton Physicians, Nurse Practitioners, Emergency Departments, other Healthcare Providers

FROM: Dr. Deepika Lobo, Medical Officer of Health

DATE: July 11, 2024

RE: New Publicly Funded Pneumococcal Vaccines and End of Spring COVID-19 Vaccine Campaign

QUICK FACTS

- Ontario's publicly funded pneumococcal vaccine program is transitioning to the following new pneumococcal vaccines:
 - Pneumococcal 15-valent conjugate (Pneu-C-15), Vaxneuvance®
 - Pneumococcal 20-valent conjugate (Pneu-C-20), Prevnar 20®
- These two new pneumococcal conjugate vaccines will provide broader protection against invasive pneumococcal disease (IPD) compared to Pneu-C-13 and longer-term protection than Pneu-P-23, which are the two vaccines previously used in the Ontario publicly funded program.
- There are no changes to the existing eligibility criteria for the publicly funded pneumococcal vaccine programs.
- Return any unused Pneu-C-13 and Pneu-P-23 vaccines remaining in your vaccine fridge to Public Health once you have received doses of Pneu-C-15 and Pneu-C-20 vaccines.
- Ontario's Spring COVID-19 vaccine campaign has ended.

KEY MESSAGES FOR HEALTHCARE PROVIDERS

New Publicly Funded Pneumococcal Vaccines

- There are three pneumococcal vaccine programs in Ontario:
 - Routine vaccination program for children aged 6 weeks to 4 years. Vaccine used for this population will transition from Pneu-C-13 to Pneu-C-15.
 - Routine vaccination program for individuals aged 65 years and older. Vaccine used for this population will transition from Pneu-P-23 to Pneu-C-20.
 - High risk vaccination program for individuals aged 6 weeks and older with certain medical or non-medical conditions who are at high risk for IPD. Vaccine used for this population will transition from Pneu-P-23 and Pneu-C-13 to Pneu-C-20.
- Pneumococcal conjugate vaccines are more immunogenic and provide longer-lasting protection than the pneumococcal polysaccharide vaccine.
- Pneu-P-23 vaccine will no longer be publicly funded as it is being replaced with the Pneu-C-20 vaccine.
- Children and adults with incomplete immunization records, or no immunization records, should be considered unimmunized and should receive pneumococcal vaccines on a schedule appropriate to their age and risk factors, regardless of possible previous immunization.
- Revaccination is currently not recommended if individuals have already received all publicly funded Pneu-C-13 and/or Pneu-P-23 vaccines.

- Pneu-C-15 and Pneu-C-20 can be ordered through the [online vaccine ordering form](#). When ordering the new pneumococcal vaccines, ensure you order enough doses to replace your existing stock of Pneu-C-13 and/or Pneu-P-23 vaccines.
- Vaccines will be delivered according to the [vaccine distribution schedule](#). Facilities can expect to receive the new pneumococcal vaccines starting July 16, 2024.
- Once you have received Pneu-C-15 and Pneu-C-20 vaccines, return all existing stock of Pneu-C-13 and Pneu-P-23 vaccines in your fridge to Public Health following the protocol for [vaccine wastage and returns](#). All returns must be accompanied by a completed [Non-Reusable Vaccine Return Record](#).
- The Ministry of Health will post further information about the transition to new pneumococcal vaccines, including fact sheets and Q&A documents, on their website later this summer.

End of Spring COVID-19 Vaccination Campaign

- The COVID-19 Spring Vaccination campaign ended on June 30, 2024.
- A longer interval between COVID-19 vaccine doses results in a more robust and durable immune response and higher vaccine effectiveness.
- In anticipation that there will be another COVID-19 fall vaccination campaign announced for the 2024/2025 season, COVID-19 vaccines should not be administered at this time unless an individual has not been previously vaccinated against COVID-19 or they are specifically recommended to receive a dose by their health care provider.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- [Public health level recommendations on the use of pneumococcal vaccines in adults, including the use of 15-valent and 20-valent conjugate vaccines](#), NACI
- [Vaxneuvance®](#): Pneu-C-15 Product Monograph
- [Prevnar 20®](#): Pneu-C-20 Product Monograph
- [Vaccine Information](#), Halton Region Public Health
- [Vaccine Storage and Handling](#), Halton Region Public Health

Please report all suspected/confirmed cases of [Diseases of Public Health Significance](#) (only report COVID-19 cases occurring in high-risk settings) to Public Health immediately by calling 311, 905-825-6000 or toll free at 1-866-442-5866.

PLEASE PROVIDE A COPY TO ALL PHYSICIANS IN YOUR OFFICE AND/OR POST IN EMERGENCY DEPARTMENTS AND PHYSICIAN LOUNGES. IF YOU HAVE ANY ISSUES WITH THIS ATTACHMENT, PLEASE EMAIL DOCTORS@HALTON.CA.

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