

**Report to
Rapport au:**

**Ottawa Board of Health
Conseil de santé d'Ottawa
18 September 2017 / 18 septembre 2017**

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Ward: CITY WIDE / À L'ÉCHELLE DE LA VILLE File Number: ACS2017-OPH-HPP-0004

**SUBJECT: UPDATE ON OTTAWA PUBLIC HEALTH'S IMMUNIZATION
STRATEGY**

**OBJET: MISE À JOUR AU SUJET DE LA STRATÉGIE D'IMMUNISATION DE
SANTÉ PUBLIQUE OTTAWA**

REPORT RECOMMENDATION

That the Board of Health for the City of Ottawa Health Unit receive, for information, updates with respect to the implementation of Ottawa Public Health's Immunization Strategy, as outlined in this report.

RECOMMANDATION DU RAPPORT

Que le Conseil de santé de la circonscription sanitaire de la ville d'Ottawa reçoive à titre information les mises à jour relatives au déploiement de la stratégie

d'immunisation de Santé publique Ottawa telle que décrite dans le présent rapport.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In June 2015, the Board of Health approved a multi-phase immunization strategy aimed at strengthening surveillance of immunization status by reviewing the immunization records of all children and youth attending schools and licensed daycares; reducing inequities by identifying how best to serve residents who face barriers and are at greater risk for vaccine preventable diseases (e.g. children under five, older adults) and expanding promotion of immunization at all ages.

Moving forward with the immunization strategy, OPH will focus on reducing inequities and barriers faced by sub-groups of residents (e.g. language, immigration status), expanding promotion of immunization and maintaining the work done to improve immunization surveillance.

In June 2017, the Ottawa Board of Health received a report, which provided an update with respect to the implementation of Ottawa Public Health's multi-phased immunization strategy. The purpose of the current report is to provide further updates on new provincial requirements and actions since that date with respect to OPH's multi-phased immunization strategy.

RÉSUMÉ

En juin 2015, le Conseil de santé a approuvé une stratégie d'immunisation en plusieurs phases dont l'objectif était d'améliorer le suivi du statut vaccinal des enfants en examinant les dossiers d'immunisation de tous les enfants et de tous les jeunes fréquentant l'école et les services de garde régis; de réduire les iniquités en déterminant comment mieux servir les résidents faisant face à des obstacles en matière d'immunisation et exposés à un risque plus élevé de contracter des maladies évitables par la vaccination (p. ex. les enfants âgés de moins de cinq ans, les personnes âgées); et enfin, d'étendre la promotion de la vaccination pour tous les groupes d'âge.

Avec la mise en œuvre de sa stratégie d'immunisation, SPO mettra l'accent sur la réduction des iniquités et des obstacles auxquels font face des sous-groupes de résidents (p. ex. en raison de la langue, du statut d'immigrant), étendra la promotion de la vaccination et poursuivra son travail pour améliorer la surveillance du statut vaccinal de la population.

En juin 2017, le Conseil de santé d'Ottawa a reçu un rapport sur le déploiement de la stratégie d'immunisation en plusieurs phases de Santé publique Ottawa. Le présent rapport a pour objet de fournir d'autres mises à jour relatives aux nouvelles exigences et mesures provinciales adoptées depuis qui ont une incidence sur la stratégie d'immunisation en plusieurs phases de Santé publique Ottawa.

BACKGROUND

In June 2015, the Board of Health approved a multi-phase immunization strategy aimed at: strengthening surveillance of immunization status by reviewing the immunization records of all children and youth attending schools and licensed daycares (Phase 1 – Every Child, Every Year); reducing inequities by identifying how best to serve residents who face barriers and are at greater risk for vaccine preventable diseases (e.g. children under five, older adults) (Phase 2 – Reducing Inequities); and expanding promotion of immunization at all ages (Phase 3 – Across the Lifespan).

At its meeting of June 19, 2017, the Ottawa Board of Health received a report titled *Update on Ottawa Public Health's Immunization Strategy*, which provided an update, with respect to the implementation of Ottawa Public Health's multi-phased immunization strategy. The purpose of this report is to provide further updates to the Board on new provincial requirements and actions since that date with respect to OPH's multi-phased immunization strategy.

DISCUSSION

Since June 2017, OPH has made progress on implementing phase 1; new provincial legislation has been implemented; and OPH has forged new partnerships to address health inequities in our community. Outlined below is a summary of these actions and developments.

Update on implementation of Phase 1, Every Child Every Year

Phase 1 of the multi-phased immunization strategy focuses on improving surveillance of immunization status by reviewing the immunization records of all children and youth attending school and licensed child care centres.

Update on immunization surveillance of children attending child care centres

This past summer, OPH conducted immunization surveillance of children who attend licensed child care centres, which offered subsidized places in 2017.

Between June 2017 and August 2017, OPH:

- Worked with 114 licensed child care centres
- Assessed the records of 3,304 children
- Issued 1504 notices of incomplete immunization

Updates to the HPV immunization program

In August 2017, the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care informed OPH that, as of September 2017, the nine-valent HPV vaccine (Gardasil 9) would be offered as part of the provincial publicly-funded immunization program. This vaccine offers added protection for youth against Human Papillomavirus (HPV) infection and related cancers.

This change has caused a delay in the start OPH's school immunization clinics, in order to ensure vaccine availability from the Ontario Government Pharmacy. This year, the first round of school clinics will be implemented in a three-month period instead of a four-month period.

New provincial requirement for parental in-person education sessions

The provincial government announced new legislation that, as of September 1, 2017, requires parents seeking an immunization exemption for non-medical reasons to complete an education session, as per the recent amendments to the *Immunization of School Pupils Act*.

The new provincial legislation requires that the education session must be provided in person (i.e. not online) and that these sessions must be delivered by the local health unit. To meet this requirement, the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care has developed a bilingual electronic module as well as additional resources for health units to use in delivering the education sessions.

It is estimated that between 200-300 non-medical exemptions will be submitted to OPH in the coming year. Peak times are expected to occur during immunization surveillance (from October to March). To accommodate these parents in a timely fashion, OPH will be providing individualized sessions with parents, using the Ministry's electronic tool.

Under the OPH model:

- Parents will book an appointment, during the workday and/or one evening a week, at 100 Constellation
- Parents will listen to the Ministry's 35-minute education module (in French or English);

- After completing the electronic module, parents will meet with a public health nurse (PHN) with an opportunity to ask questions;
- The PHN will then issue the certificate of completion to the parent.

Similar to all new programming, OPH will assess the delivery of these sessions and adjust accordingly.

The Ministry has advised that there will be an opportunity to submit a one-time funding request for the costs associated with the implementation of these amendments; OPH intends to apply for this funding.

Update on implementation of Phase 2, Reducing inequities

Phase 2 of the multi-phased immunization strategy - reducing inequities - aims to focus on identifying subpopulations that face health inequities and are more at risk for vaccine preventable diseases and to implement interventions that are targeted at the specific needs of these subpopulations. Phase 2 includes identifying under-immunized groups and regions in Ottawa, focusing health promotion, partner engagement and vaccine delivery on populations with barriers and risks and prioritizing influenza vaccine clinics to populations with limited access to physicians and pharmacists. In 2017-2018, OPH will seek to make progress on Phase 2 through a demonstration project with partners to address the immunization needs of newcomers and increase capacity to reach under-immunized groups.

Newcomers immunization clinic

In March 2017, due to an increase in requests for health services from newcomers at an urban family shelter, partners requested OPH's assistance to immunize newcomers housed at the shelter. There was also a need to ensure that all children were appropriately immunized to attend school. Since March, OPH conducted seven clinics and immunized almost 100 newcomers.

Given the need to ensure that newcomers are well-immunized and that their specific needs are understood and met, OPH will implement a demonstration project with partners. Should the results of this project demonstrate the need, these will be used to seek new funding and to inform a future comprehensive plan to address the specific needs of Ottawa's newcomer population.

As a first step, OPH will provide monthly clinics at the shelter. The process will include a complete assessment of the clients'/families' immunization records, vaccine recommendations and immunization provisions. As a second step, to inform a plan to

address their needs and target interventions tailored to this specific population, OPH will collect information and will work with partners to assess and analyze the data.

Universal Influenza Immunization Program (UIIP)

In aligning with the goal of phase 2 of the multi-phase immunization strategy, reducing inequities, OPH will focus the delivery of the Influenza Immunization Program to the needs of the residents who are facing barriers in accessing the vaccine. OPH will adjust the hours of the certain community clinics that had reduced attendance and/or those that are located in urban areas, which are well served by pharmacies.

Through this plan, OPH will continually assess clinic locations and hours, and adjust accordingly. In addition, OPH will continue to promote the provision of the flu vaccine from pharmacies and other community care providers, including primary care physicians. This is a first step in reducing the number of community influenza immunization clinics in order to reallocate resources to better support residents facing barriers to accessing immunization service. This is a key component in implementing phase 2 of OPH's multi-phase immunization strategy; a deliberate and intensive continuation of a multi-year plan to reallocate resources to support under-immunized residents. The plan was made possible, and facilitated by, the ever increasing number of community pharmacies participating in the UIIP, which has lead to an 82% drop in the number of vaccines being administered directly through OPH community clinics over the last five years.

In 2016-2017, 4,833 residents received their influenza vaccine at an OPH community clinic, which represents a decline from previous years (6,341 in 2015-2016).

For the upcoming flu season, 211 pharmacies have been approved to participate in the UIIP (an increase from 184 pharmacists in 2016-2017). For the 2017-2018 flu seasons, OPH will adjust the hours of certain community clinics (as outlined in Document 1) while maintaining services in the outreach clinics (group homes (13), shelters (7) and hospitals (5)) as well as maintaining the availability of the vaccine at the 100 Constellation Clinic, which is open five days a week (including one evening per week).

Next steps

OPH will implement the actions outlined above, and continue to implement its multi-phased immunization strategy; while assessing its delivery of this strategy.

RURAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no rural implications associated with this report.

CONSULTATION

No public consultation was undertaken in the preparation of this information report.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no legal impediments to receiving this report for information.

RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

There are no risk management implications associated with this report.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Funds are available for the Immunization Strategy within the 2017 Provincial funding envelope. OPH will be submitting a one-time funding request to the Province for the new provincial requirement for parental-in-person education sessions.

ACCESSIBILITY IMPACTS

There are no accessibility implications associated with this report.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

Document 1 – Ottawa Public Health's Proposed Community Immunization Clinic Schedule

DISPOSITION

This report is provided to the Board of Health for information.

Document 1 – Ottawa Public Health's Proposed Community Immunization Clinic Schedule

Table 1: Ottawa Public Health's Proposed Community Immunization Clinic Schedule, 2017

Date	Location	Hours
October 28	All Saints High School, Kanata	9:00 - noon
October 30	Alfred Taylor Recreation Centre, North Gower	15:30 - 18:30
November 1	Mother Teresa High School, Barrhaven	15:30 - 18:30
November 2	West Carleton Community Complex, Kinburn	15:30 - 18:30
November 4	École secondaire Béatrice Desloges, Orléans	9:00 - noon
November 6	South Carleton High School, Richmond	15:30 - 18:30
November 7	Fred Barrett Arena	15:30 - 19:30
November 8	Greely Community Centre, Greely	15:30 - 18:30
November 14	Heritage Public School, Navan	15:30 - 18:30
November 15	Osgoode Township High School, Metcalf	15:30 - 18:30
November 16	Sacred Heart High School, Stittsville	15:30 - 19:30
November 20	City Hall	8:30 - 17:00