

# Immunizations: Recommendations for Emergency Service Workers



**PublicHealth**  
WELLINGTON-DUFFERIN-GUELPH  
*Stay Well.*

# Why Immunize?

- Vaccines prevent serious illness and death from vaccine-preventable diseases (VPD)
- Safe and effective way to become immune to an infectious disease without becoming sick from the disease itself
- Vaccines help:
  - build up and strengthen your immune system
  - protect you against disease in each stage of life



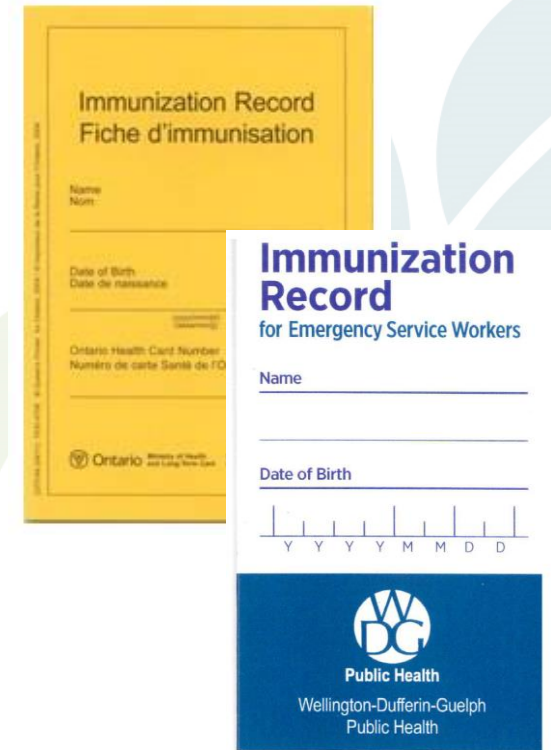
# Work Exposures

- **Emergency Service Workers are at risk of exposure to infectious diseases because of their contact with clients or their environment. There is also a risk that workers could transmit an undiagnosed vaccine preventable disease to others.**
- **By being immunized you will protect**
  - Yourself
  - Family
  - Co-workers
  - Patients/Clients



# Documentation

- It is strongly recommended that ESWs retain a copy of their immunization record and any immunity testing in their personal health records, and if required with their employer.
- **CAN**Immunize is a secure app that keeps track of your vaccination records on your smartphone

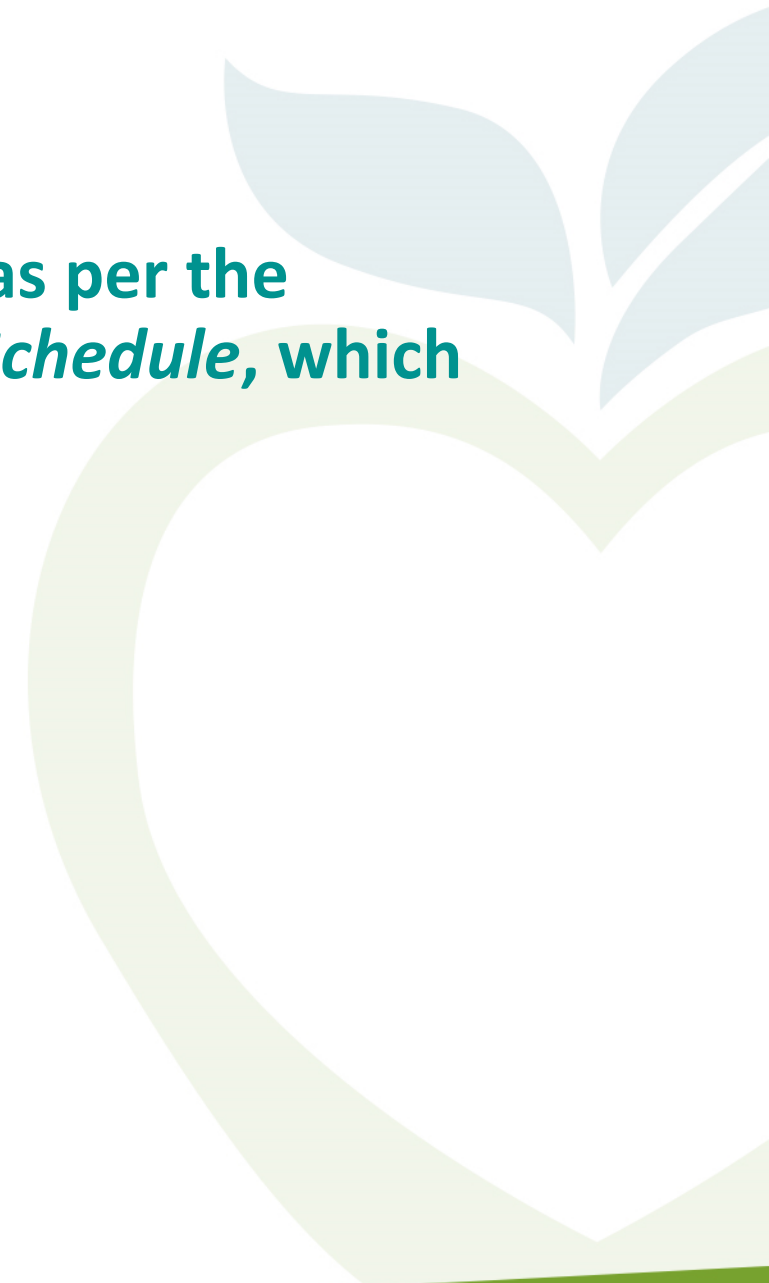


# If you do not know your immunization status:

- **ESWs who are unsure of their vaccination status are advised to consult with their health care provider or the local public health department.**
- **If the ESW cannot locate a record of immunization, or is unsure of their immunization status, their doctor may order a blood test that will determine their immunity to vaccine-preventable diseases.**

# Immunization Recommendations

- **Emergency Service Workers should be immunized as per the recommendations of the *Canadian Immunization Schedule*, which include:**
  - **Hepatitis B**
  - **Measles, mumps, rubella**
  - **Tetanus, Diphtheria**
  - **Pertussis (whooping cough)**
  - **Varicella (chickenpox)**
  
  - **Annual Influenza**
  - **Current COVID-19 vaccine**
  
  - **TB Skin Test**



# Hepatitis B Vaccine

- ESWs should receive three doses of vaccine (0, 1, 6 months) or an alternate schedule of 2 doses given in elementary school (grade 7). This is considered a complete series
- Blood work should be done to verify immunity 1-6 months after the last dose

**Note:** ESWs who show no immunity to hepatitis B may require additional doses of vaccine for complete protection.

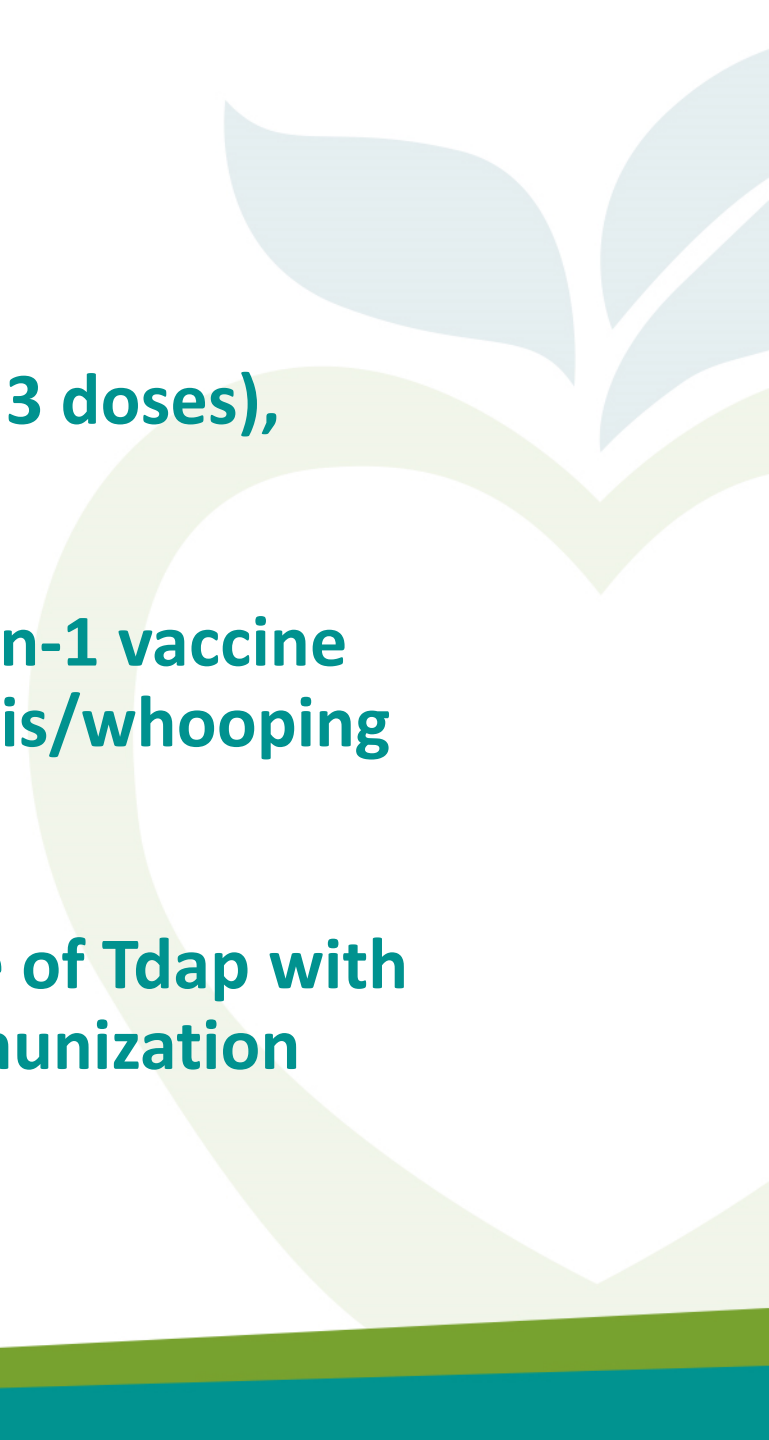
# Measles, Mumps, and Rubella Vaccine

- ESWs regardless of their year of birth, should have documented evidence of 2 doses of MMR vaccine on or after the first birthday  
OR
- have documented laboratory evidence of immunity (from previous vaccination and/or disease)





# Tetanus, Diphtheria & Pertussis

- Following a complete primary series (minimum of 3 doses), ESWs should receive a Td booster every 10 years.
  - One of the doses during adulthood should be a 3-in-1 vaccine called Tdap vaccine (for protection against pertussis/whooping cough).
  - Effective April 2022, women should receive a dose of Tdap with every pregnancy, regardless of previous Tdap immunization history to protect their newborn
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# Chickenpox (Varicella) Vaccine

- **ESWs should have documented evidence of 2 doses of varicella-containing vaccine**  
**OR**
- **have laboratory evidence of immunity with an unknown history of chickenpox disease**
- **ESWs with an unknown history of chickenpox disease should receive 2 doses of vaccine given 4-8 weeks apart**

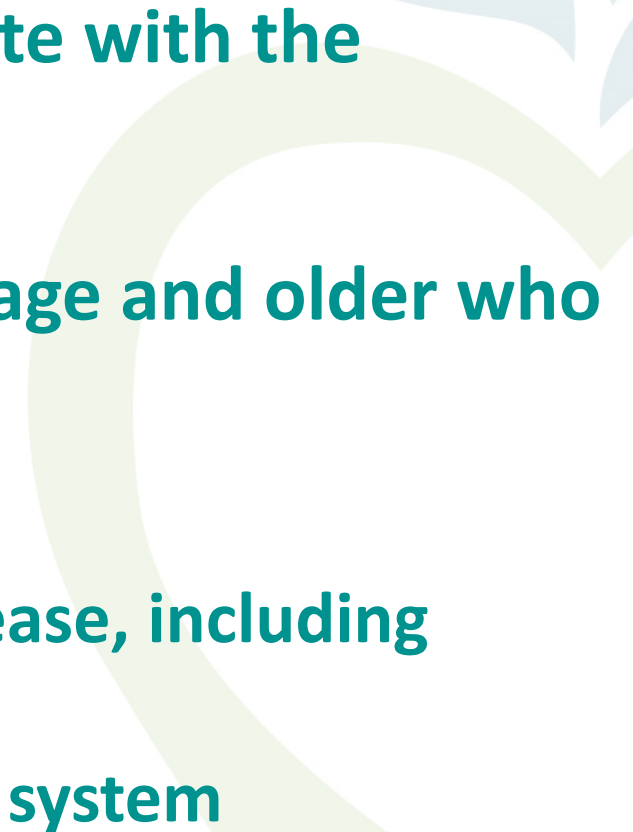


# Influenza vaccine

- **Strongly recommended that ESWs have one dose annually for protection against the circulating strain (early fall, as soon as it becomes available)**
- **Getting a flu shot is the best way to protect:**
  - Yourself
  - Your family
  - Co-workers
  - Patients/clients



# COVID-19 Vaccine

- **Strongly recommended that ESWs stay up to date with the current COVID-19 vaccines**
  - **Vaccines are free to all individuals 6 months of age and older who live, work or go to school in Ontario**
  - **Preventing COVID-19 is important to:**
    - **protect individuals against severe COVID-19 disease, including hospitalization and death**
    - **protect and mitigate impacts on our health care system**
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# Tuberculosis (TB) Skin Test

- ESWs with an unknown TB status should have a baseline 2-step TB skin test (two tests are completed 1 to 4 weeks apart)
- ESWs with a previously documented positive TB skin test should have a baseline chest x-ray

