ADVISORY

PublicHealth
WELLINGTON-DUFFERIN-GUELPH
Stay Well.

SUBJECT:	Publicly Funded Tdap and Hepatitis B Immunization Program Expansion
Date:	May 12, 2022
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To:	Primary Care Providers
From:	Dr. Matthew Tenenbaum, Associate Medical Officer of Health

- **Effective April 2022, all pregnant individuals in Ontario are eligible to receive a publicly funded Tdap dose in every pregnancy.**
- **Young infants are at greatest risk of severe pertussis infection; pertussis vaccination during pregnancy is expected to provide protection for this group.**
- **Beginning in the 2022-23 school year, eligibility for the school-based hepatitis B immunization program has now been expanded until the end of grade 12.**

Tdap Immunization Program for Pregnant Individuals

In 2018, the National Advisory Committee on Immunization (NACI) recommended that all pregnant individuals should be offered Tdap (tetanus, diphtheria, pertussis) vaccine in every pregnancy, regardless of previous Tdap immunization history[1]. Young infants are at greatest risk of severe pertussis infection, and Tdap immunization during pregnancy is expected to provide protection before the infant can begin their pertussis immunization series. The safety of receiving this vaccine in pregnancy is well-established.

Effective April 2022, all pregnant individuals in Ontario are eligible to receive a publicly funded (free) Tdap dose in every pregnancy. Ideally, this vaccine should be administered between 27 and 32 weeks of gestation[1]. As part of routine prenatal care, please discuss and offer your patients Tdap vaccine during every pregnancy.

Pregnant individuals are also at greater risk of severe outcomes from COVID-19.[2] Please also discuss and offer to immunize your patients against COVID-19 if they are not already up to date on all recommended doses. mRNA COVID-19 vaccines are safe to administer during pregnancy and may be co-administered alongside Tdap or other vaccines.[3]

Hepatitis B Immunization Program Extended through Grade 12

Beginning in the 2022-23 school year, eligibility for the school-based hepatitis B immunization program will be expanded until the end of grade 12. This means that any students who missed their vaccine in grade 7 will be eligible to receive publicly funded (free) doses to complete their immunization schedule.

Hepatitis B vaccine is routinely provided as a 2-dose series in grade 7. For individuals requiring catch-up immunizations, refer to the table below.

School-based immunization schedule for the hepatitis B vaccine

Age	Vaccine	mL	Complete Series[a]	
			Doses	**Interval**
Routine – no doses received				
11 to < 16 years	Hepatitis B (**adult**)	1.0	2 doses	**Dose 1:** 0 **Dose 2:** 4 to 6 months after 1st dose[b]
16 to < 19 years	Hepatitis B (**paediatric**)	0.5	3 doses	**Dose 1:** 0 **Dose 2:** 1 month after 1st dose **Dose 3:** 5 months after 2nd dose
Catch-up – one dose (HB 1.0 mL) received 11 to <16 years AND is now 16 years or older				
16 to < 19 years	Hepatitis B (**paediatric**)	0.5	2 doses	**Dose 2:** 1 month after 1st dose **Dose 3:** 5 months after 2nd dose

[a] Hepatitis B immunization series is to be completed by the end of grade 12.

[b] Depending on vaccine used for first dose, see Table 6 in the Publicly Funded Schedules for Ontario

Eligible students will be able to receive hepatitis B vaccine according to these expanded criteria through WDGPH clinics or through their primary care provider. Students may present to their primary care provider with a notice that they received from WDGPH outlining all immunizations for which they are due based on WDGPH's records.

Ordering Vaccine

To order school-based vaccines (HB, HPV-9 and Men-C-ACYW)	To order other vaccines (incl. Tdap)
Please fax the School Based Vaccine Order Form to **519-823-4903**	Please fax the Vaccine Order Form to **519-823-4903**

Reporting Vaccinations to Public Health

There are several options for reporting the immunization records to Public Health:

1. Fax from Primary Care Provider:

If you provide childhood vaccines (ages 0-18), your office can report them to WDGPH using our standard form. Providers are encouraged to do this proactively, whenever they administer a vaccine. Please fax vaccine records to 519-836-2986.

2. Online Reporting:

Students and families can view or report immunizations to Public Health online at immunizewdg.ca using their child's Ontario-issued health card number. This online alternative to paper immunization records allows parents/students to securely keep track of their family's immunization records.

3. Email Reporting:

Students and families can submit their immunization records by email to vaccine.records@wdgpublichealth.ca

Attachments
- Tdap Fact sheet, April 26, 2022
- Tdap In Every Pregnancy: QAs For Immunizers April 26, 2022

References:
1. Government of Canada. Update on immunization in pregnancy with Tdap vaccine, accessed May 12, 2022. Available at: https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/publications/healthy-living/update-immunization-pregnancy-tdap-vaccine.html
2. Government of Canada. COVID-19: Pregnancy, childbirth and caring for a newborn, accessed May 12, 2022. Available at: https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/diseases/2019-novel-coronavirus-infection/prevention-risks/pregnancy-childbirth-newborn.html
3. Government of Canada. COVID-19 vaccine: Canadian Immunization Guide, Simultaneous administration with other vaccines, accessed May 12, 2022. Available at: https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/publications/healthy-living/canadian-immunization-guide-part-4-active-vaccines/page-26-covid-19-vaccine.html#a8.3

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