

April 11<sup>th</sup>, 2011

**Subject: Immunization Program Update**

Dear Colleagues:

I am writing to provide you with a summary of changes to the New Brunswick Routine Immunization Schedule that has occurred in the last year and to inform you of an upcoming change:

1. Beginning April 15, 2011 **Tdap (tetanus, diphtheria and acellular pertussis) will be added to the Routine Adult Immunization Schedule.** This vaccine will be available from the Central Serum Depot and all sub-depots throughout the province.

The National Advisory Committee on Immunization currently recommends that adults with a complete primary series receive Td boosters every 10 years and that one dose should be given as Tdap if not previously given in adulthood.

New Brunswick recommendations for use of Tdap in adults are as follows:

- a. General adult population:
    - i. Those with regular contact with infants under 12 months of age should receive one dose as soon as possible if they have not already received a dose as an adult.
    - ii. Those who do not have regular contact with infants under 12 months of age should be offered Tdap at the time of the next Td booster if they have not already received a dose as an adult
    - iii. Those who require tetanus vaccine as a part of wound management should receive Tdap if they have not already received a dose as an adult.
  - b. Health care providers (including students in health care studies):
    - i. Those who are in clinical contact with infants under 12 months of age should receive one dose immediately if they have not already received a dose as an adult.
    - ii. Those who are in clinical contact with patients with compromised immune systems should receive a dose as soon as possible if they have not already received a dose as an adult.
    - iii. All other health care providers should be offered Tdap at the time of the next Td booster if they have not already received a dose as an adult
2. As of January 1, 2011, a **second dose of varicella was added to the Routine Childhood Immunization Schedule** to be given at 18 months. A limited catch-up program is in place so that all children born in 2009 and later are eligible to receive this second dose.

3. In July of 2010, **Pevnar 13™ and a three dose schedule for pneumococcal vaccination was introduced.** A time limited catch-up ended March 31<sup>st</sup> and now all children should receive Pevnar 13™ routinely at 2, 4 and 12 months. Please refer to earlier correspondence concerning recommendations for those children at high risk of pneumococcal disease.

Enclosed for your reference is the current New Brunswick Routine Immunization Schedule. A limited supply of poster sized Schedules are available at local Public Health offices.

I welcome your comments and in closing I want to thank you for your continued support of the New Brunswick Immunization Program.

Sincerely,



Dr. Eilish Cleary  
Chief Medical Officer of Health