

# Publicly Funded Immunization Schedules for Ontario – October 2015

## Information for Health Care Providers

The Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care has revised the Publicly Funded Immunization Schedules for Ontario (Schedules). The following document highlights the vaccine updates and key changes that have been made to the Schedules.

### Immunization Program Enhancements and Schedule Updates:

- The following immunization program enhancements have been incorporated into the Schedules:
  - **Adult pertussis** immunization program provides a publicly funded dose of tetanus, diphtheria, pertussis (Tdap) vaccine for all adults 18 years of age and older (including those aged 65 and older). Additionally, adults are eligible regardless of whether Tdap was received in adolescence.
  - **High risk meningococcal conjugate ACYW-135 (Men-C-ACYW)** vaccine program offers an age-appropriate primary immunization series followed by booster doses. Two new high risk groups have also been added.
  - **High risk multicomponent meningococcal B (4CMenB)** vaccine program is publicly funded for children who meet certain high risk medical conditions.
  - **High risk pneumococcal conjugate 13 (Pneu-C-13)** vaccine program offers eligibility to adults 50 years of age and older who meet certain high risk medical conditions.
  - **Human Papillomavirus (HPV-4)** school-based program for healthy grade 8 females has changed from a 3-dose to a 2-dose schedule.

### Formatting Changes:

Several formatting changes have been made to the Schedules document to improve clarity and ease of use. These include:

- **Large Format Routine Schedule on First Page:** Can be used as an improved reference tool for explaining the routine immunization schedule to clients.
- **Vaccine Eligibility Table (Table 2):** Publicly funded vaccines in Ontario are provided through the routine schedule, catch-up schedules, high risk programs and for case and contact management. Table 2 provides information on the eligibility criteria, including age groups and conditions for each publicly funded vaccine.
- **Vaccine Interval Tables (Tables 4 to 21):** These tables provide the recommended and minimum ages and intervals for publicly funded vaccines that require a multi-dose series. The *minimum* age and interval is the shortest time between two vaccine doses in a multi-dose series in which a protective response to the subsequent dose can be expected. However, it is preferable to maintain the *recommended* age and interval when possible as this will provide optimal protection or has the best evidence of efficacy.
- **Tables for Interrupted Vaccine Series (Tables 22 and 23):** Individuals with interrupted immunization schedules should be immunized to complete the appropriate schedule for their current age. Tables 22 and 23 provide timing information on how to complete the Pneu-C-13 and Tdap-IPV and/or Td-IPV immunization series.