

The Immunizer

A quarterly newsletter for community vaccine providers (CVP) in the Interior Health Region.

March 2024

Human Papilloma Virus (HPV) Vaccine

Noticing an uptake in HPV vaccine? As part of the provincial campaign to increase HPV vaccination rates for youth in BC, the Province recently extended the eligibility for publicly funded HPV vaccines to males born in 2005. Males in this cohort have until June 30, 2024 to receive the free vaccine.

Review [HPV9.pdf \(bccdc.ca\)](https://bccdc.ca) for more details.

Submit a [Publicly Funded Vaccine Order Form \(interiorhealth.ca\)](https://interiorhealth.ca) to obtain stock from your local health centre.



School Catch-up

Public health nurses are currently offering routine immunizations to those eligible in grades 6 and 9. As part of our school campaign we are encouraging eligible students to access routine publicly funded vaccines before the end of the school year. Students were reminded they can receive immunizations from a variety of sources including from community vaccine providers.

Grade 10-12 immunization clinics are also being offered in schools this spring to provide opportunities for students to catch-up on any missed vaccines including HPV vaccine.



Tetanus Time!

Each spring we see an increase in injuries as people start cleaning up their yards/gardens. A review of the [Tetanus Prophylaxis in Wound Management](#) table may be good idea. You can also review a patient's immunization history as recorded in the BC Provincial Immunization Registry on CareConnect.

Don't forget that when unimmunized/under-immunized children present with a wound an age-appropriate tetanus containing product can be offered instead of Td. See [Age Appropriate Tetanus Containing Vaccines](#) to help determine the correct vaccine product to offer and the [Publicly Funded Vaccine Order Form](#) to order vaccine stock.



PHAC Survey for HCPs

Given the evolving respiratory illness activity in the fall and the availability of numerous vaccines, the Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC) is looking to learn more about the needs of health care professionals. PHAC would like to know more about what information you would like to receive regarding influenza, COVID-19 and respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) vaccines to support you in recommending and administering these vaccines.

This survey is expected to take 5-10 minutes to complete. **Responses are due by 9:00 am PST, Friday March 8, 2024.** More information is included in the survey preamble.

Survey: <https://forms.office.com/r/Hq2eaiRUkt>

CARD System



Young or old, many people are afraid of needles. Ever wonder how you can make getting immunizations a better experience for everyone?

This [video](#) will show you how vaccine programs and immunization providers can play their CARDS to improve the immunization experience.

For more information visit:

- BCCDC [CARD System for Vaccination](#) Toolkits
- AboutKidsHealth [CARD System Learning Hub](#)

National Immunization Awareness Week

National Immunization Awareness Week (NIAW) is an annual event held the last week of April to highlight and recognize the importance of immunization.

This year, Canada's NIAW is April 22 to 30. Visit the official [NIAW page](#), found on Immunize Canada's website, which includes resources to promote immunization, including [Awareness Campaign Ideas](#).



Questions?

If you have a question, we are happy to help!

- Clinical Immunization Questions: ImmunizationProgram@interiorhealth.ca
- Biological Vaccine Product Questions: Vaccines@interiorhealth.ca

Let us know if you have any suggestions for upcoming newsletter content

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