

March 25, 2019

**RE: Updates to Manitoba's Immunization Program**

**Meningococcal Quadrivalent Vaccine to be Offered in Grade 6 Starting in the 2019/20 School Year**

- In 2015 Manitoba Health, Seniors and Active Living (MHSAL) began implementing immunization schedule efficiencies in the school based program. The final implementation step is the addition of meningococcal conjugate quadrivalent (Men-C-ACYW-135) vaccine to Manitoba's Routine Immunization Schedule.
- The Men-C-ACYW-135 vaccine will be offered to those in grade 6 (those born during or after January 2008) as part of Manitoba's School Immunization Program starting in the upcoming 2019/20 school year.
- In the event that a parent/guardian chooses not to have their child(ren) immunized in school or the opportunity was missed during the school year, immunization providers may also administer the Men-C-ACYW-135 vaccine to their eligible clients.
- Including this vaccine as part of Manitoba's School Immunization program will align Manitoba's school based program with the recommendations set by the National Advisory Committee with on Immunization and Manitoba's Provincial Vaccine Advisory Committee.
- Attached you will find the updated Recommended Routine Immunization Schedule for Infants, Children and Adults for your convenience that will come into effect on April 1, 2019.

**Updated HPV Vaccine Eligibility Criteria**

- In order to ensure the most vulnerable populations are protected against Human Papillomavirus (HPV), the eligibility criteria for the publicly funded HPV vaccine has been updated.
- Please review the updated HPV vaccine eligibility criteria for your patients and clients who may be at highest risk for HPV infection and its complications.

## Vaccine Returns

- **Spring Cleaning** – please use this time to locate all expired publicly funded vaccine in your refrigerator and arrange with the provincial distribution warehouse to have them returned. Only vaccines ordered through the warehouse can be returned.
- Manitoba Health, Seniors and Active Living's *Return Policy and Procedure* can be found here: [www.manitoba.ca/health/publichealth/cdc/div/docs/vbrpp.pdf](http://www.manitoba.ca/health/publichealth/cdc/div/docs/vbrpp.pdf).
- **Please return all expired influenza vaccine prior to placing your order for next season.**

The eligibility criteria for the Men-C-ACYW-135 and HPV publicly funded vaccines will be updated online for April 1, 2019. The eligibility criteria can be located at [www.manitoba.ca/health/publichealth/cdc/vaccineeligibility.html](http://www.manitoba.ca/health/publichealth/cdc/vaccineeligibility.html)

The vaccine factsheets and other immunization resources can be located at [www.manitoba.ca/health/publichealth/cdc/div/vaccines.html](http://www.manitoba.ca/health/publichealth/cdc/div/vaccines.html)

For all information and resources on Manitoba's publicly funded immunization program, please refer to the Immunization Program Manual for Health Care Providers at [www.manitoba.ca/health/publichealth/cdc/div/manual/index.html](http://www.manitoba.ca/health/publichealth/cdc/div/manual/index.html)

Sincerely,



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