
COMMUNIQUE

March 20, 2019

Ministry of Education

For Superintendents: Province is launching catch-up immunization program to protect against measles

Starting in April, the Province is launching a school-age measles immunization catch-up program, the first step in government's two-phase plan to educate people about the importance of immunization, help them become aware of their immunization status, and prepare for this fall's mandatory reporting of school-age children's vaccinations status.

The catch-up program will run from April to June and be offered by local health authorities for children who may be unimmunized or not fully immunized for measles. The program will be made available in schools to children, from kindergarten to grade 12, as well as at community health centres, public health clinics, community pharmacists and mobile community clinics in select regions.

Public health units will be contacting and working with your districts to organize the clinics and activities related to the catch-up campaign. To facilitate this work please ensure your district has signed the Letter of Agreement with the BC Centre for Disease Control to authorize the secure digital transfer of student information to BC Public Health. It was sent out earlier this week to districts who have not signed off.

Public health units will work with schools and districts to notify parents of upcoming measles immunization catch-up clinic days, and provide information about measles and what to expect if a child needs a measles immunization. Public health units will be contacting families with under- or un-immunized children through a variety of actions, including direct-calling families, sending e-mails and letters, and working with schools on newsletters.

The second phase will see the launch, in September, of a mandatory registry of vaccinations: EDUC is working closely with Health to ensure we implement a solution that leverages technology and is as easy as possible for parents and schools. We will be arranging an All-Superintendents' and Board Chairs' call for the first week of April (after Spring Break), with Ministry of Health colleagues, to provide further information.

The education sector has been a long-time partner for collaboration with the health sector, and we request that continued support as we progress the two phases of this immediate immunization initiative.

Learn More:

Information for Parents/Staff

Are you immunized? Check your records. To find a public health unit anywhere in the province, visit: <https://immunizebc.ca/finder>

Learn more about measles and the vaccines at: <https://www.healthlinkbc.ca/health-feature/measles>

Visit BC Centre for Disease Control's website for the latest measles updates in B.C.: <http://www.bccdc.ca/about/news-stories/stories/measles-information-for-british-columbians>

Province to launch catch-up immunization program to protect against measles: <https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2019HLTH0046-000442>

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