



Immunization

In September 2004, B.C.'s Ministry of Health announced province-wide funding to increase immunization programs aimed at protecting children from varicella (chicken pox), meningococcal C (meningitis) and influenza (flu). This means more protection for children from these diseases.

Useful Websites

B.C. Health Files:
www.bchealthguide.org/healthfiles/index.stm

Canadian Paediatric Society:
www.caringforkids.cps.ca


Health Canada:
www.hc-sc.gc.ca/english/iyh/medical/childhood_imm.html

OR
Contact your Local
Public Health Centre

Protecting Our Children

Varicella Vaccine



- The chicken pox virus spreads easily and is therefore highly contagious.
 - Beginning in 2005, this vaccine will be offered to kindergarten students, grade 6 students, and all children born in 2004 when they reach their first birthday.
 - Other children should be vaccinated if they are at high risk and so should their household contacts. Contact a public health nurse for more information.
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- The illness is more severe if it occurs in teenagers, adults or individuals with a weakened immune system.
 - To prevent getting chicken pox, the vaccine is recommended.

Meningococcal C Vaccine

- New this year for grade 9 students. B.C. already offers this vaccine to one-year olds and grade 6 students.
- Risk of meningitis is highest among children under one year of age and peaks again between the ages of 15 - 19 years.
- The meningococcal bacteria is an infection that can affect the lining of the brain or cause an infection of the blood.
- There are 35 - 50 cases reported in B.C. each year.
- To avoid serious problems from this infection, it is recommended that infants and teens have this vaccination.
- Other prevention strategies:
 - frequent hand washing
 - good personal hygiene
 - don't share an item that may have saliva or spit on it.



Wash your hands!

Influenza Vaccine

- ⊙ This new program seeks to vaccinate children 6 - 23 months, plus all household contacts and childcare providers of children aged 0 - 23 months and women in the third trimester of pregnancy.
- ⊙ This program started in October 2004.
- ⊙ This immunization is recommended by the National Advisory Committee on Immunization.
- ⊙ Influenza reduces the body's ability to fight other infections, and the complications can sometimes be fatal.
- ⊙ Each year in Interior Health, many young people are hospitalized for influenza.
- ⊙ The flu shot is **STILL** your best protection.



Immunization Schedule for Children

2, 4 and 6 months

- ⇒ Diphtheria
- ⇒ Pertussis (whooping cough)
- ⇒ Tetanus
- ⇒ Polio
- ⇒ Haemophilus Influenza Type B
- ⇒ Hepatitis B
- ⇒ Pneumococcal Conjugate

6 - 23 months

- ⇒ Influenza (2 doses)
(during flu season only)

12 months

- ⇒ Measles
- ⇒ Mumps
- ⇒ Rubella
- ⇒ Varicella
(chicken pox)
- ⇒ Meningococcal C
(meningitis)

18 months

- ⇒ Diphtheria
- ⇒ Pertussis (whooping cough)
- ⇒ Tetanus
- ⇒ Polio
- ⇒ Haemophilus Influenza Type B
- ⇒ Measles
- ⇒ Mumps
- ⇒ Rubella
- ⇒ Pneumococcal Conjugate

Kindergarten

- ⇒ Diphtheria
- ⇒ Pertussis (whooping cough)
- ⇒ Tetanus
- ⇒ Polio
- ⇒ Varicella (chicken pox)*

Grade 6

(These vaccines are necessary only if the student has not previously had the vaccination.)

- ⇒ Hepatitis B
- ⇒ Varicella (chicken pox)*
- ⇒ Meningococcal C
(meningitis)

Grade 9

- ⇒ Diphtheria
- ⇒ Pertussis (whooping cough)
- ⇒ Tetanus
- ⇒ Meningococcal C
(meningitis)

NOTE: Each (⇒) represents one injection and tells what is in each vaccine.

* Varicella is given ONLY if the child has had no history of the disease or if they have not already received the vaccination.

