
MEMORANDUM

TO: CDPC Program Network

CC: Carol MacKinnon, Senior Director, Public Health & Lynn Edwards,
Senior Director, Primary Health Care

FROM: Elaine Holmes, Director, Communicable Disease Prevention and Control

DATE: September 9, 2015

RE: Key messages for the promotion of vaccines in pregnancy

The National Advisory Committee on Immunization (NACI) recommended in 2014 that all pregnant women, 26 weeks gestation or greater who have not received a dose of pertussis vaccine as an adult receive one dose of Tdap (tetanus, diphtheria and acellular pertussis) vaccine.

In light of this recommendation and NACI's continued recommendation of the influenza vaccine in pregnancy, the Maternal Vaccines in Pregnancy Working Group within the Department of Health and Wellness was established to support, develop and disseminate promotional targeted messaging to health system providers and the public. The working group consists of representatives from the Communicable Disease Prevention and Control Branch, Healthy Development Division, Public Health Branch; Primary Health Care Branch, Reproductive Care Program and Communications Nova Scotia.

The group has developed key messages for health care providers for the promotion of the pertussis and influenza vaccines in pregnancy. This information is incredibly important given the recent clusters of pertussis cases in Nova Scotia and as the influenza season approaches.

With respect to the recent pertussis clusters, a letter has already been sent to all health care providers from Dr. Frank Atherton, Deputy Chief Medical Officer of Health. The letter highlights the importance of offering the pertussis vaccine to eligible pregnant women.

Additional information for the upcoming influenza season for health care providers is forthcoming.

Your support in championing and distributing these key messages to your colleagues and other health care providers in your networks is appreciated.