

July 13, 2015

Dear Health Care Provider:

I would like to inform you of changes to the childhood, school-based and high risk immunization programs.

### **Childhood Program:**

The **Measles, Mumps, Rubella (MMR)** vaccine and **Measles, Mumps, Rubella, Varicella (MMRV)** vaccine is a 2 dose schedule. Currently, the first dose is scheduled for 12 months of age. The recommendation for the second dose is changed.

- The second dose of MMR or MMRV can be scheduled for anytime between 18 months and 6 years of age. MSI billing codes have already been established.

The **Nova Scotia Routine Childhood Immunization Schedule** for health professionals and the **Nova Scotia Publicly Funded Vaccine/Immunoglobulin Eligibility Policy** can be found at <http://novascotia.ca/DHW/CDPC/info-for-professionals.asp>

### **School Based Program: (Starting in the 2015-2016 school year)**

- The grade 7 **meningococcal C vaccine** will be switched to a **quadrivalent meningococcal vaccine** providing protection against serogroups A, C, Y and W 135.
- The **Human Papillomavirus (HPV)** vaccine will be offered to both males and females in grade 7.
- The HPV vaccine will be reduced from a 3 dose to a 2 dose schedule.

### **High Risk Individuals:**

- **Meningococcal B vaccine** (Bexsero) will be available to individuals with high risk conditions, close contacts of individuals with meningococcal B disease and in outbreak situations as determined by Public Health.
- **Polysaccharide 23 – valent pneumococcal vaccine:**
  - **Individuals (2-64 years)** at highest risk of invasive pneumococcal disease (functional or anatomic asplenia or sickle cell disease, hepatic cirrhosis, chronic renal failure or nephrotic syndrome, HIV infection, and immunosuppression related to disease or therapy) should receive one booster dose of the polysaccharide 23-valent pneumococcal vaccine five years after the previous dose.

- **Individuals 65 years of age and over** should receive one dose of the polysaccharide 23-valent pneumococcal vaccine only. If the individual has previously received 1 or 2 doses ensure 5 years has passed since the last dose.

For more information on the Polysaccharide 23 – valent pneumococcal vaccine: <http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/naci-ccni/acs-dcc/2015/pneu-p-23-eng.php>

The **Nova Scotia Publicly Funded Vaccine Eligibility for Individuals at High Risk of Acquiring Vaccine Preventable Diseases** can be found at <http://novascotia.ca/DHW/CDPC/info-for-professionals.asp>

Thank you for your continued support and commitment to the publicly funded immunization program.

Sincerely,



Dr. Frank Atherton  
Deputy Chief Medical Officer of Health  
Nova Scotia Department of Health and Wellness