

January 7, 2016

Attention: Physicians, Nurse Practitioners, Walk-in Clinics, Hospitals – Emergency, Infection Control, Dental Offices

RE: SYRIAN REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT

As you are aware, Syrian refugees have started to arrive in Ontario and communities within the HKPR district will be receiving sponsored Syrian refugees in the coming months as part of the resettlement initiative. Although refugees are undergoing immigration medical exams prior to arriving in Canada, mobilizing health care support for them after arriving in Canada has been identified as a priority.

Refugees will have health care coverage upon arrival, including prescription drug coverage, partial dental and vision care, through the Interim Federal Health Program (IFHP) for a period of one year and will be eligible for OHIP benefits through application with Service Ontario once they have established a permanent residence (a 3-month waiting period will NOT be required). For further details on IFHP, please go to <http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/refugees/outside/arriving-healthcare/individuals/apply-who.asp>.

REQUEST FOR HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS

MOHLTC is currently developing a register of primary care providers, specialists, allied health-care practitioners, mental health service providers, dentists and optometrists who are able to provide transitional care and services for refugees. **Please refer to the attached document for more information.**

IMMUNIZATION INFORMATION

Since 2011, Syria's health system has deteriorated resulting in a drop in vaccination rates to below 50% in some areas. With this in mind, it is recommended that an assessment of immunization records of all Syrian refugees presenting to your office be completed. Once this is complete offer catch-up immunizations, based on the *Ontario Publicly Funded Immunization Schedule* and the *National Advisory Committee on Immunization* (NACI). Only accept documented immunization records and when a record is unreliable or unavailable, provide vaccines to Syrian refugees as if they were not immunized. The Annex in the document link below provides information on vaccines and schedules in Syria, as well as recommendations on which vaccines to give first, based on the client's age. <http://health.gov.on.ca/en/pro/programs/emb/syrianrefugees/>

RESOURCES FOR HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS AND ALLIED HEALTH PROFESSIONALS:

Canadian Pediatric Society: Caring for Kids New to Canada

The majority of displaced people in Syria are children and approximately 75% of these children are under the age of 12 years. The CPS has developed comprehensive tools and resources for health care providers working with Syrian children that cover a variety of topics, including immunization, oral health and integration issues:

<http://www.kidsnewtocanada.ca/>

CMAJ: Caring for a Newly Arrived Syrian Refugee Family

This article follows a family through its first visit with their new family doctor, current recommendations for preventative interventions and screening, specific to Syrian refugees, and links to resources for health care professionals: <http://www.kidsnewtocanada.ca/>

Health Care Provider Hotline

Questions can be directed to the Ministry by calling 1-866-212-2272 or by emailing emergencymanagement.moh@ontario.ca

Health Care Services Contact Information for Health Care Providers

Contains contact information for the Refugee Healthline, the Interim Federal Health Plan, and Healthcare Provider Hotline among others and is included in this Fax Fact.

Health System Action Plan: Syrian Refugees and Fact Sheets for Refugees

Updates will be posted to the Ministry website as they become available:

<http://health.gov.on.ca/en/pro/programs/emb/syrianrefugees/>

Signage Available in Arabic

Signage regarding *hand-washing*, *hand-sanitizing* and *covering your cough* is available from Toronto Public Health:

<http://www1.toronto.ca/wps/portal/contentonly?vgnextoid=ef462d6855e02410VgnVCM10000071d60f89RCRD>

ALL LINKS CAN BE FOUND ON THE HKPR SYRIAN RESETTLEMENT LANDING PAGE AT:

<http://www.hkpr.on.ca/ResourcesForms/HealthCareProfessionals/SyrianRefugeeResources.aspx>

If you have any questions about this notice, please contact the Health Unit and ask to speak with a nurse in the Communicable Disease Control Department.

Haliburton
705-457-1391

Lindsay
705-324-3569

Port Hope
905-885-9100

After Hours
1-888-255-7839