

DATE: December 9, 2016

Attention: Physicians, Nurse Practitioners, Walk-In Clinics

RE: Immunization of School Pupils Act (ISPA) – First Notices

Starting in January, the HKPRDHU will be mailing out first notices to students who are overdue for immunization(s) that are required for school attendance under the **Immunization of School Pupils Act (ISPA)**

The ISPA requires all children attending school to be immunized against the following diseases:

- Tetanus, diphtheria, pertussis, polio (e.g. Adacel-Polio, Boostrix-Polio, Adacel, Boostrix)
- Measles, mumps, rubella (e.g. MMR II, Priorix)
- Meningococcal Group C (e.g. Menjugate, Neisvac-C) and Meningococcal Group ACYW135 (Menactra)
- Varicella (e.g. Varivax III, Varilrix) for children born in 2010 or later

BE SURE TO ORDER ADDITIONAL VACCINES AS SPECIFIED ABOVE TO PREPARE FOR INCREASED IMMUNIZATION REQUESTS

Students may be flagged as “overdue” if:

- **The interval between immunization doses is incorrect or the child received the vaccine prior to the age of eligibility.**
- Two **live vaccines** were given less than 28 days apart (i.e. varicella, MMR).
- The **first dose** of **MMR** was given prior to 12 months of age.

Please consider the following when students present to your office:

- **Check student records** to ensure all eligible vaccines are provided according to the *Publicly Funded Immunization Schedule for Ontario – October 2016* (http://www.health.gov.on.ca/en/pro/programs/immunization/docs/immunization_schedule.pdf).
- **If a student cannot receive immunization(s) for medical reasons**, a medical exemption must be completed using a *Statement for Medical Exemption – Immunization of School Pupils Act*. (<http://www.hkpr.on.ca/InfoSet/Youth/Immunization/ExemptionForms.aspx>)
- **To avoid suspension from school**, remind parents to maintain their child’s immunization record and report updates to the Health Unit.

Should you require further information, please contact the Health Unit and ask to speak with a nurse in the Vaccine Preventable Diseases Department.