Dear Colleague:

Please be advised that Alberta Health Services has now expanded its eligibility criteria for pneumococcal conjugate 13 vaccine for persons with several chronic conditions to older age groups. Pneumococcal polysaccharide 23 vaccine can now be provided to persons with asthma and those with neurologic conditions impairing clearing of oral secretions. A detailed list of approved indications for both vaccines follows below. Patients can be referred to Public Health to book an appointment for administration of both vaccines.

**Pneumococcal Conjugate 13 Vaccine**

**Healthy Children:**
- 2 months up to and including 5 years of age.
- Catch-up: children up to and including 5 years of age who have completed pneumococcal conjugate immunization with a conjugate vaccine other than Prevnar®13 should be offered a single dose of Prevnar® 13 vaccine if they present prior to their 6th birthday (preferably at their preschool immunization appointment).

**High Risk Individuals (children and adults):**
- 2 months up to and including 17 years of age
  - asplenia/hyposplenism (functional or anatomic)
  - chronic cardiac disease
  - chronic cerebrospinal fluid (CSF) leaks
  - chronic liver disease (including hepatitis B and C and hepatic cirrhosis due to any cause).
  - chronic neurologic conditions that may impair clearance of oral secretions
  - chronic pulmonary disease (excluding asthma unless treated with high-dose oral corticosteroid therapy)
  - chronic renal disease including nephrotic syndrome
  - cochlear implants (candidates and recipients)
  - congenital immunodeficiencies involving any part of the immune system including B-lymphocyte immunity (humoral), T-lymphocyte (cell) mediated immunity, complement system (properdin or factor D deficiencies) or phagocytic functions
  - diabetes mellitus, poorly controlled
  - hematopoietic stem cell transplant (HSCT) recipients - see Standard for Immunization of Transplant Candidates and Recipients #08.304
  - HIV infection
  - immunosuppressive therapy including use of long term corticosteroids, chemotherapy, radiation therapy, post-organ transplant therapy, and certain anti-rheumatic drugs
malignant neoplasms including leukemia, lymphoma, Hodgkin’s disease and multiple myeloma
- sickle-cell disease and other hemoglobinopathies
- solid organ transplant or islet transplant (SOT) candidates and recipient
  - see Standard for Immunization of Transplant Candidates and Recipients #08.304
• **18 years and older:**
  - asplenia (anatomic or functional)
  - chronic CSF leak
  - cochlear implants (candidates or recipients)
  - congenital immunodeficiencies involving any part of the immune system including B-lymphocyte immunity (humoral), T-lymphocyte (cell) mediated immunity, complement system (properdin or factor D deficiencies) or phagocytic functions
  - hematopoietic stem cell transplant (HSCT) recipients - see Standard for Immunization of Transplant Candidates and Recipients #08.304
  - HIV infection
  - immunosuppressive therapy including use of long term corticosteroids, chemotherapy, radiation therapy, post-organ transplant therapy, and biologic and non-biologic immunosuppressive therapies for rheumatologic and other inflammatory diseases, malignant neoplasms including leukemia, lymphoma,
  - sickle cell disease and other hemoglobinopathies
  - solid organ transplant (SOT) candidates or recipients - see Standard for Immunization of Transplant Candidates and Recipients #08.304

**Notes:**
- Previous invasive pneumococcal disease (IPD) does not confer immunity or preclude immunization with pneumococcal conjugate vaccine. If a series is interrupted due to IPD, the series should be completed once the individual has recovered.
- Individuals 2 years of age and older at high risk may be eligible for both pneumococcal 13-valent conjugate vaccine and pneumococcal polysaccharide vaccine (see Pneumococcal Polysaccharide Vaccine Biological Page for indications).

**Pneumococcal Polysaccharide 23 Vaccine**

**Routine Recommended Immunization**
- Persons 65 years of age or older.

**Medically at Risk**
- Persons 24 months of age up to and including 64 years of age with the following:
  - Alcoholism; includes individuals with any history of alcohol abuse
  - Anatomic or functional asplenia, splenic dysfunction
  - Chronic heart disease; includes congestive heart failure, myocardial infarction and individuals taking heart medications or being followed by a cardiac specialist
  - Chronic cerebrospinal fluid (CSF) leak
  - Chronic kidney disease; includes nephrotic syndrome and renal dialysis
  - Chronic liver disease; includes chronic hepatitis B, hepatitis C and cirrhosis due to any cause
  - Chronic lung disease (including asthma requiring medical treatment within the last 12 months regardless of whether they are on high dose steroids)*
  - Chronic neurologic conditions that may impair clearing of oral secretions
  - Cochlear implant (candidates and recipients)
  - Congenital immune deficiencies involving any part of the immune system, including
B-lymphocyte (humoral) immunity; T-lymphocyte (cell) mediated immunity, complement system (properdin or factor D deficiencies), or phagocytic functions.

- Diabetes mellitus; includes both insulin and non-insulin dependent (controlled by oral medication or diet)
- HIV infection
- Illicit injection drug use
- Immunosuppressive therapy including use of long term corticosteroids, chemotherapy, radiation therapy, post-organ transplant therapy and certain anti-rheumatic drugs
- Malignant neoplasms including leukemia, Hodgkin’s and non-Hodgkin’s lymphomas, multiple myeloma and other malignancies
- Sickle cell disease and other hemoglobinopathies

*emergency department or ambulatory care visits, hospitalization for asthma, asthma medication prescriptions.

- Solid Organ Transplant (SOT) candidates and recipients and Hematopoietic stem cell (HSCT) recipients 24 months of age and older – See Standard for Immunization of Transplant Candidates and Recipients #08.304

**High Risk Setting**

- Individuals 24 months of age up to and including 64 years of age who are homeless or living in chronically disadvantaged situations.
  - Includes those with no fixed address or living in shelters.
- Individuals 24 months of age up to and including 64 years of age who are residents of Long Term Care or Continuing Care facilities (if the individual does not have a chronic health condition).

**Notes:**

1. Previous invasive pneumococcal disease (IPD) does not confer immunity or preclude immunization with pneumococcal polysaccharide vaccine. If a series is interrupted due to IPD, the series should be completed once the individual has recovered.

2. A **one-time single** reinforcing dose of pneumococcal polysaccharide vaccine is recommended **ONLY** for those individuals at highest risk of invasive pneumococcal disease. This includes people with:
   - Anatomic or functional asplenia, splenic dysfunction or sickle-cell disease
   - Chronic renal failure or nephrotic syndrome
   - Hepatic cirrhosis
   - HIV infection
   - Immunosuppression related to disease or therapy (e.g. lymphoma, Hodgkin’s disease,
   - multiple myeloma, high-dose systemic steroids)
   - Solid organ transplant

Thank you for your attention and assistance.

Sincerely,

Dr. Digby Horne, MD
Medical Officer of Health
Alberta Health Services, Central Zone