

Date: Thursday, November 23, 2017

To: Emergency, Family, Obstetrics and Pediatric Physicians; U of A Family Medicine Residency Program; Pharmacies (AHS/Cov/Lamont); Emergency Department Staff; Public Health Nursing; WHS/OHS; IPC; Women's and Children's Health; NICU; Midwives; Prenatal Instructors; Nurse Practitioners

From: Dr. Digby Horne, Medical Officer of Health – Central Zone

The pertussis outbreak in Central Zone continues, with 205 reported cases in 2017.

All pregnant women in Central Zone are recommended to receive a dose of dTap (diphtheria, Tetanus, acellular pertussis) vaccine during each pregnancy at 26 weeks or greater,* regardless of number and timing of doses of pertussis-containing vaccines received prior to the current pregnancy.

Immunizations can be provided at physician offices, hospitals, and Workplace Health and Safety/Occupational Health and Safety clinics meeting specific requirements.[†] Health Centres in First Nations communities may also be providing vaccine. Alternately, patients may be referred to their local AHS Community Health Centre to make an appointment for immunization by Public Health.

To promote immunization of pregnant women, a [poster](#) and [question/answer sheet](#) are available at the Central Zone MOH website: www.ahs.ca/czmoh
(Home>Information For Health Professionals>Medical Staff>Physician Resources>Medical Officer of Health Bulletins>MOH - Central Zone>Resources)

Previous recommendations for pertussis immunization in other groups remain unaltered:

- Routine childhood immunization schedule (Public Health): 2,4,6,18 mo.; 4-6yrs; and 14-15 yrs.
- Adults: a single dose of dTap any time after turning 18 years, regardless of previous immunization history.

Thank you for your attention and assistance.

*Administration at other times than 26 weeks or greater:

- a) if immunization with tetanus vaccine is required for wound management prior to 26 weeks, dTap should be given and does not need to be repeated during the pregnancy
- b) if not administered during pregnancy, it should only be provided postpartum to women who have not received a dose of dTap since turning 18 years old.

[†]Specific requirements for immunizers (for further details, please contact Wendy Malo, Best Practices Coordinator ph: 403-356-6409):

- a) consultation with the patient and Net Care immunization records to ensure immunization during the current pregnancy has not already occurred.
- b) compliance with the AHS Vaccine Storage and Handling Standard found in the Immunization Program Standards Manual: www.ahs.ca/10802.asp.
- c) use of the on-line Alberta Vaccine Inventory (AVI) system for vaccine ordering.
- d) submission of immunization records to your local Vaccine Depot Monitor (Public Health) on a monthly basis (minimum). Please complete the Reason Code selecting *pregnant*.
- e) provision of a hard-copy immunization record to the patient;
- f) reporting of Adverse Reactions: www.health.alberta.ca/professionals/immunization-policy.html.