

December 12, 2018

To All Health Care Providers:

Re: Immunization against Pertussis in Pregnant Women

Effective January 1, 2019, the Manitoba Health, Seniors and Active Living (MHSAL) eligibility criteria for publicly-funded tetanus, diphtheria, and acellular pertussis (Tdap) vaccine is being updated. Pregnant women should be immunized with Tdap vaccine in every pregnancy between 27 and 32 weeks gestation. This aligns Manitoba with recommendations from Canada's National Advisory Committee on Immunization (NACI), Manitoba's Provincial Vaccine Advisory Committee (PVAC), and The Society of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists of Canada.

The Tdap vaccine eligibility criteria for vaccines free-of-charge through MHSAL will be updated for January 1, 2019 to be:

- Individuals at 13 to 15 years of age (Grade 8 or 9 school-based program).
- Individuals who missed the vaccine in Grade 8 or 9 and are born on or after January 1, 1989.
- Adults who are due for a Td booster and have not previously received a pertussis-containing vaccine in adulthood.*
- **Pregnant women in every pregnancy. Optimal timing is between 27 and 32 weeks gestation, although Tdap vaccine may be given at any time during pregnancy.**
- Patients currently under the care of a haematologist or oncologist from CancerCare Manitoba (CCMB) who have the following conditions and have been provided a CCMB directed Immunization Schedule:
 - Malignant neoplasms (solid tissue and haematological) including leukemia and lymphoma, or clonal blood disorder, and who will receive or have completed immunosuppressive therapy including chemo therapy or radiation therapy, **or**
 - Patients who are hypo- or asplenic (Sickle Cell Disease, etc.)

** There is no minimum interval between the Td and Tdap vaccine.*

Primary caregivers of a newborn infant up to 6 months of age who had not previously received a pertussis-containing vaccine in adulthood are no longer eligible under the

updated criteria. Please review the criteria to see if they meet any of the other Tdap vaccine eligibility criteria.

MHSAL would like to encourage health care providers to immunize their pregnant clients against pertussis in order to protect their future newborn. Evidence shows that a person is more likely to obtain an immunization if recommended by their health care provider and if that provider has the vaccine available on site to be administered at the time of recommendation.

Health care providers can register with MHSAL to access publicly-funded vaccines through a New Provider Application (<https://www.gov.mb.ca/health/publichealth/cdc/protocol/npaf.pdf>). Once registered, Manitoba's publicly funded immunizations can be ordered from the Provincial Distribution Warehouse using the Vaccines and Biologics Order Form (www.manitoba.ca/health/publichealth/cdc/protocol/vaccinebiologics.pdf).

Health care providers can locate information on Manitoba's publicly funded immunization program within the Immunization Program Manual for Immunization Providers in Manitoba located at:
www.manitoba.ca/health/publichealth/cdc/div/manual/index.html

For any questions, please contact Communicable Disease Control at 204-788-6737 or email at Vaccines@gov.mb.ca

Sincerely,

"Original signed by"

Richard Baydack, PhD
Director
Communicable Disease Control

"Original signed by"

Tim Hilderman, MD FRCPC
Medical Lead, Vaccines
Communicable Disease Control