



# interior health

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**TO VIEW ANY PAST MHO UPDATES GO TO:**

**Interior Health [Website](#)**

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**DUTY MHO LINE (24/7)**  
**1-866-457-5648**

**Be alert for gastrointestinal illness associated with mountain parks during the summer months**

Tourist season in the mountain parks (e.g., Yoho, Kootenay and Banff) is often accompanied by an increase in GI illness, usually of viral origin. Each year, there is a cluster or outbreak of GI illness associated with travel in these parks, often spreading quickly within hotels or tour groups. In 2011 there was a norovirus outbreak in Yoho National park involving 35 individuals.

Interior Health Environmental Health Officers and the Communicable Disease Unit investigate all reports of increased GI illness. This year, Interior Health has partnered with Alberta Health Services and Parks Canada to share surveillance data in order to facilitate early detection of GI illness. This collaboration will ensure timely implementation of prevention and control measures and dissemination of information to those who need it, including local physicians.

If you see an increase in GI illness in your practice, have cases of GI illness that appear to be linked, and/or are part of a tour group that have travelled to the National Parks, please report this to the Communicable Disease Unit at 1-866-778-7736 during business hours, or to the Medical Health Officer on call after hours at 1-866-457-5648.

**Ensure routine pertussis immunizations are up to date**

Although IH has not seen the heightened pertussis activity experienced by the Lower Mainland this year, these occurrences highlight the importance of maintaining clinical suspicion for pertussis. Reporting of all confirmed and probable cases should be done through the Communicable Disease Unit at 1-866-778-7736.

There have been no recent changes to the routine pertussis immunization schedule. Publicly funded pertussis vaccines are provided at 2, 4, 6, and 18 months, at 4-6 years and in Grade 9. Physicians are encouraged to verify their patient's immunization status and refer them to immunization clinics at the nearest local health centre. Although adults are not eligible for publicly funded pertussis vaccine at this time, they can purchase it privately through community vaccine providers such as pharmacists.

## **HPV vaccine still available for 19, 20 & 21 year old women**

Cervarix (HPV vaccine) continues to be available for administration to 19, 20 & 21 year old women in your practice. Please contact your local health centre for vaccine or see ordering information at the following link:

[www.interiorhealth.ca/sites/Partners/ImmunizationResourcesTools/Pages/default.aspx](http://www.interiorhealth.ca/sites/Partners/ImmunizationResourcesTools/Pages/default.aspx)

## **The new Interior Health Prenatal Registry**

The new Interior Health Prenatal Registry is a toll free, confidential phone line service that connects pregnant women with appropriate services in her community to help her have a healthy pregnancy. The Prenatal Registry will provide a consistent approach across Interior Health and improve service delivery by working with families earlier to positively impact well-being and address the social determinants of health.

The Prenatal Registry will launch on August 14<sup>th</sup> in the pilot communities of Cranbrook/Kimberley, Nelson/Castlegar/Trail, Kelowna/West Kelowna, Vernon, Kamloops, and Williams Lake/Cariboo Chilcotin. The Prenatal Registry Public Health Nurse can offer screening, information and referral based on the mother's individual needs and the programs and services available in her community. All pregnant women in the pilot communities are encouraged to call the Prenatal Registry early in their pregnancy. The Prenatal Registry will expand to all other IH locations in early 2013.

Physicians are asked to promote the Prenatal Registry by providing the toll-free number to all pregnant women via a business card or small handout, and by displaying posters using promotional materials that will be sent to physician offices in the pilot communities close to the launch date.

The Prenatal Registry will operate Tuesday through Friday from 10 am to 3 pm Pacific Standard Time/11 am to 4 pm Mountain Standard Time. Patients can contact the prenatal registry through the Toll Free Line at 1-855-868-7710.

## **Unassisted Childbirths**

A few unassisted childbirths or "freebirths" have recently occurred in IH without midwife or physician involvement. Routine procedures and screening that typically accompany a physician or midwife assisted delivery will not have been completed.

If a woman contacts the health centre with a history of an unassisted childbirth, she will be directed to contact her primary care physician for appropriate follow-up, including routine procedures and/or screening.

If a woman initially presents to you, please refer her to:

- the local health centre for newborn hearing screening once you have completed your follow-up
- BC Vital Statistics Agency or any Service BC office to request and complete a Registration of Live Birth Form to register the baby's birth within 30 days

If you have concerns regarding resistance to follow-up that may affect the well-being of the baby, please consult with the Ministry of Children and Family Development (MCFD) through the 'Helpline for Children' at 250-310-1234.