

# The Immunizer

A quarterly newsletter for community vaccine providers (CVP) in the Interior Health Region.

June 1, 2022

## PHNs Ordering Serology for Immunization

Beginning June 1<sup>st</sup>, Interior Health Public Health Nurses (PHNs) will provide serology requisitions directly to clients to determine immune status for the following vaccine preventable diseases:

- Hepatitis A
- Hepatitis B (HBsAg, Anti-HBs, Anti-HBc)
- Measles, Mumps & Rubella
- Rabies
- Varicella

PHNs will be responsible to:

- Ensure family physicians/health care providers (HCPs) receive their patient's serology results by including the physician/HCP name on the requisition form, if the client has consented
- Inform the client of their results and immunize accordingly
- Send a letter to the family physician/HCP informing them of the outcome (e.g. client immunized or not)

This change will improve client experience by reducing the time and effort required to get serologic testing for immunity status.



## Age Appropriate Tetanus

When unimmunized/under-immunized children present to the emergency department with a wound, providing tetanus immunoprophylaxis is essential!

Td vaccine is not the appropriate product to provide to children, even though Td vaccine is approved for use in those 7 years of age and older. Age-appropriate tetanus toxoid-containing vaccine should be used according to age and immunization history.

See [Age Appropriate Tetanus Containing Vaccines](#) for a quick table to help you determine which vaccine product to offer.

Ordering the right product is easy! Simply complete the [Publicly Funded Vaccine Order Form](#) for the product(s) requested and submit to your local health centre or email [Vaccines@interiorhealth.ca](mailto:Vaccines@interiorhealth.ca)



## BC Immunization Forum



Session recordings are now available from the [2022 BC Immunization Forum](#) that was held on March 1 & 2.

Highlights include:

- [COVID: The Virus, the Vaccines, The Future](#)
- [New Approaches to Immunization Communication](#) (Excellent tips & tricks)
- [Racial Equity in Immunization](#)
- [What's new and interesting?](#)

## HPV before 19



If you have clients/patients who missed their Human Papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine series in school and they are not yet 19 years of age, it may not be too late for them to get a publicly funded HPV vaccine series. See [ImmunizeBC HPV Vaccine Before 19](#)

**Watch:** [We Can Be the First](#) video



## Animal Contacts

Bats may be the only known rabies reservoir in BC, but wild animals as well as domestic mammals, including household pets, may become infected with the bat strain of rabies.

If an animal was imported or has travelled outside of BC to an area where rabies is enzootic in the last 6 months, they are at greater risk.

It is important to assess whether any bites or scratches from animal encounters have the potential for rabies exposure. A risk assessment by an Environmental Health Officer or a Medical Health Officer is recommended in these situations.

See the [March Edition of The Immunizer](#) for information on how to consult for a rabies post-exposure prophylaxis for your patient.

## Questions?

If you have questions we are happy to help!

- Clinical Immunization Questions: [ImmunizationProgram@interiorhealth.ca](mailto:ImmunizationProgram@interiorhealth.ca)
- Biological Vaccine Product Questions: [Vaccines@interiorhealth.ca](mailto:Vaccines@interiorhealth.ca)



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