

The Immunizer

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

September 2025

Avian Influenza Vaccine

Avian Influenza vaccines have arrived in Interior Health and are being monitored closely for uptake and wastage. If you are aware of [eligible individuals](#) direct them to their local public health office. For additional information, see BCCDC [Avian Influenza Client Information Sheet](#).

Fall Respiratory Campaign

Allocations for respiratory vaccines are determined for providers who reported their uptake last season. It is recommended that providers contact their local public health centre to confirm their allocations. Pharmacies will continue to receive direct distribution.

Complete the Respiratory Illness Vaccine Order Form, [Printable](#) or [Fillable](#) version, and submit as soon as possible if you are:

- A new provider,
- Requesting an increase to your Influenza allocations, OR
- Requiring COVID-19 products.

Pneumovax®23 (PPV23) has been replaced by PCV20 and at this time **no boosters are indicated**. Individuals with certain conditions [may be eligible](#) for a dose of PCV20 if they had been eligible for a booster of PPV23 and have not already had a dose of PCV20.

HPV Vaccine Changes

There have been significant changes made to [HPV eligibility](#). This includes 1-dose series for grade 6 students, and expanded eligibility criteria for those:

- 9-26 years of age including school-age children routinely offered this dose with catch-up in later grades
- 27-45 years of age who self-identify as belonging to the gay, bisexual, and other men who have sex with men community (GBMSM)
- living with HIV (age 9-45)
- who receive post-colposcopy treatment for cervical dysplasia on/after July 31, 2025.

Note: Doses and schedules vary according to age and indication. See [BC Immunization Manual – Gardasil®9](#) pages for additional details.

School Campaign



Just a reminder for pharmacies and physicians that school-aged students may present or have questions about routine school immunizations.

The routine school-age vaccine for Grade 6 is **HPV, which is now a 1-dose series**. Grade 9 students get Tdap and Meningococcal Quadrivalent (ACYW) vaccines.

Use the Publicly Funded Vaccine Order Form ([print](#) or [fillable](#)) to order.





RSV - Beyfortus™ (Nirsevimab)

BC Women & Children's Hospital is working with the Health Authorities regarding eligibility, process/procedures and logistics for Beyfortus™.

It is expected infants under 1 year of age living in remote communities or other risk factors for those under age 2 years of age will be eligible for this monoclonal antibody. Acute care sites and public health are collaborating to identify and contact families of eligible infants/children either in their first or second RSV season.



Measles Update

Measles activity continues to be higher than normal. Demand for measles-containing vaccine products is also higher. Please [order](#) based on booked appointments rather than for routine stocking purposes.

Updates to the [BC Immunization Manual](#) for MMR eligibility have been recently made. For a summary of these changes, see [Administrative Circular: 2025:13](#).

Knowledge Booster

[Defeating a Virus That Killed Half a Billion People – The Plea](#) is a documentary that tells the story of the first vaccine and the eradication of smallpox. This 25-minute film shows the impact of smallpox through the ages and provides inspiration for the efforts to eradicate other diseases.



A quote from the film:

"People whose job it is to worry about measles or about whether we're prepared for future pandemics, or about those in poor countries where vaccines are out of reach – they're doing incredible work but need support to be successful. And you may notice that these days their pleas for help are too often going unanswered, which is why now feels like a good time to remember smallpox, to remember how many died, how many were saved, and what we're capable of."

Travel Immunizations

As people start planning for travel to warmer climates this fall and winter, it is important that they have all the information they need to protect themselves from vaccine-preventable illness on their journey.

The [Travel Immunizations](#) page on the IH Web is a great place to start!

Reach Out

If you have a question, we are happy to help! IIPProgram@interiorhealth.ca

Additional resources for community vaccine providers can be found here: [Community Vaccine Providers | Immunization & Vaccines | IH](#)

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