

<p><b>IN THIS ISSUE:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>Local increase in Invasive Meningococcal Disease (IMD)</b></li> <li>▪ <b>Update: Hepatitis B high risk ordering process</b></li> <li>▪ <b>New process for ordering vaccines</b></li> </ul>	<p><b>FROM:</b> Dr. Mary Choi, MD MPH CCFP FRCPC Associate Medical Officer of Health</p>
---	--

<p><b>Key Messages:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Local increase in Invasive Meningococcal Disease (IMD). Ensure patients are up to date with meningococcal vaccines.</li> <li>▪ Faxed order forms will no longer be accepted for the high-risk Hepatitis B vaccine program.</li> <li>▪ You or your staff are encouraged to sign up for a webinar to learn how to use our new vaccine ordering process coming later this summer.</li> </ul>
--

- Less commonly: Pneumonia with bacteremia, septic arthritis and pericarditis.
- In infants: Fever, irritability, difficulty waking, difficulty feeding, vomiting, stiff neck and bulging fontanelle.

**IMD Risk factors**

Maintain a higher index of suspicion of IMD for those who:

- Have attended large events or mass gatherings.
- Recently travelled to Saudi Arabia and close contacts of people who have recently been in Saudi Arabia, regardless of vaccination status.
- Live in overcrowded housing or congregate settings.

**Local increase in Invasive Meningococcal Disease (IMD):**

Toronto Public Health has reported an increase of IMD cases. To date this year, 14 Toronto cases have been reported - higher than the total cases seen in any year since 2002. Of the 14 cases, two have been fatal. Cases are occurring both among those who have and have not travelled outside of Canada. No IMD cases have been reported in Peel this year.

Previously, IMD cases have occurred in conjunction with mass gatherings, including the Hajj pilgrimage and international Pride events.

PHAC is monitoring reports of IMD cases associated with travel to Saudi Arabia. Twelve cases have been identified in the UK, US and France.

**Clinical Features of IMD**

IMD is a potentially life-threatening bacterial infection that can progress suddenly. Symptoms include:

- Typical symptoms of meningitis: Stiff neck, headache, fever, vomiting and photophobia.
- Sepsis with sudden onset of fever, chills, malaise, myalgia, limb pain and prostration.
- Macular, maculopapular, petechial or purpuric rash.

**IMD Laboratory Diagnosis**

If IMD is suspected, confirmatory diagnosis testing includes standard culture or PCR for *N. meningitidis* from a normally sterile site. For more information see Public Health Ontario's Website:

- [Culture](#)
- [PCR](#)

**IMD Reporting Requirements**

IMD is a reportable disease under the *Health Protection and Promotion Act*. Report suspect and confirmed cases of IMD immediately to Peel Public Health at 905 799-7700. Do not wait for laboratory confirmation.

**Immunization Recommendations**

Health Care Providers should review their patients' immunization status and offer meningococcal immunization to **unvaccinated** individuals in the following groups:

- Adults born in 1997 or later are eligible for one dose of Men-C-ACYW135 vaccine (Meningococcal Conjugate-C-ACYW135).
- Adults born between 1986 and 1996 are eligible for one dose of Men-C-C vaccine (Meningococcal Conjugate-C).

**Reminder: Routine Meningococcal Vaccines for children**

Indication	Antigen/Product
<p><b>≥12 months up to 11 years of age</b> (Grade 6)</p> <p>Given by primary care provider (As per routine schedule)</p>	<p><b>Men-C-C</b> Menjugate or NeisVac-C</p> <p>1 dose</p>
<p><b>12 - 17 years (Grades 7 - 12)</b> Grade 7 and 8 students are offered the vaccine in school.</p> <p>Grade 9-12 students can book an appointment at a PPH immunization catch-up clinic. Clinic details found at: <a href="https://www.peelregion.ca/health/vaccinations/school-program/">https://www.peelregion.ca/health/vaccinations/school-program/</a></p>	<p><b>Men-C-ACYW135</b> Nimenrix</p> <p>1 dose</p>

Please encourage parents to report their child’s immunization online at:  
<https://www.peelregion.ca/health/vaccinations/report/>  
or by calling 905-799-7700 (toll free: 1-888-919-7800).

To order meningococcal vaccine:  
<https://www.peelregion.ca/health/professionals/vaccines/ordering/>

**Update: Hepatitis B ordering process for high-risk individuals**

Faxed order forms will no longer be accepted for the high-risk Hepatitis B vaccine program. Please download the [High Risk Hepatitis B vaccine requisition](#), complete and click the submit button to submit electronically.

All vaccine order forms can be found at:  
<https://www.peelregion.ca/health/professionals/vaccines/>

**New process for ordering vaccines**

We’re changing the way you order routine and influenza vaccines.

A webinar is planned to learn how to access and use our new ordering forms for routine and influenza vaccines.

We invite those who order vaccines for their clinic to attend the webinar. Please share with your staff.

For more information and to register: [Webinar: new process for ordering vaccines - Peel Region](#)

Digital order forms will streamline the process of ordering publicly funded vaccines, improve accessibility and provide a better service experience.

The new digital vaccine order forms will be available late summer 2024.