



# Community Vaccine Providers' News

Issue 3, April 2014

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## Contacts:

Elizabeth Clements,  
Administrative Assistant

Ph: 250-645-6530

Elizabeth.Clements@northernhealth.ca

## Upcoming Events:

- 2014 Canadian Pharmacists Conference-Saskatoon, SK May 31-June 3 2014

For more information, please visit: <http://www.pharmacists.ca/index.cfm/news-events/events/conference/>

- Canadian Public Health Association Annual Conference **Public Health 2014**, May 26-29, 2014 Toronto, ON.

For more information, please visit: <http://www.cpha.ca/en/conferences/conf2014.aspx>

## National Immunization Awareness Week

April 26<sup>th</sup>-May 3<sup>rd</sup> was National Immunization Awareness Week. This coincides with World Immunization Week in the Americas. There are many new innovative ideas to help promote Immunizations and help people keep track of their families' immunizations. These include the Booster campaign, new immunization 'App', and

Text Messaging Service. Each of these exciting ideas is discussed throughout this newsletter.

There is also a variety of different resources available from the [immunize.ca](http://immunize.ca) website to promote National Immunization Awareness Week. They offer a variety of great ideas that communities can use to promote this week. Some of them include Immunize Canada colouring books, immunization quizzes, and posters available for print.

## World Immunization Week

World Immunization Week was April 24-30, 2014, with the aim of promoting one of the world's most powerful tools for health - the use of vaccines to protect people of all ages against disease. The theme for 2014 is "Are you-up-to-date?" Immunization is widely recognized as one of the most successful and cost-effective health interventions ever introduced, and it prevents between 2 and 3 million deaths every year. The partnership

between public health and pharmacists can help increase access to immunizations, and in turn help protect people against preventable diseases. For more information, please visit: <http://www.who.int/campaigns/immunization-week/2014/event/en/>

## Become a Booster

An immunization Booster in the 'I Have Immunity' campaign is a person who increases the effects of immunization education and awareness by sharing information, campaign stories and resources. Boosters are people from all over BC; some are public health nurses, pharmacists, or doctors. Others are students, professionals, stay-at-home parents or retirees. To become a Booster, or for more information about this campaign, please visit: [www.immunize.ca](http://www.immunize.ca)

## New "App" to help Canadians keep track of their immunizations

Immunize Canada has just released a free online immunization record app that includes immunization schedules for all provinces and territories. Downloading this app will allow people to keep an active record of their immunizations for themselves, or their whole family, in one place. This app also allows families to receive outbreak alert notifications for their area, and provides information on what vaccines are needed for protection. For more information about other great features of this app and to download it, please visit: <http://www.immunize.ca>

## Immunization text messaging reminder cards

A new program that offers text message reminders to clients of upcoming scheduled immunization appointments is now available. This service can be used in a couple of different ways; it can remind parents to make an appointment for their child's immunizations, or to remind them of an appointment they already have. This service can be used for any immunization. There are also cards available at your local health unit that provide all of the information clients will need to sign up for this service. We encourage pharmacists to pick these up, and have them available to clients when they come in to pharmacies. Clients can also visit <http://www.immunizebc.ca/reminders> to sign up for this service.

## Cervarix™ Vaccine One Time Program Still Available

B.C. is still offering the one-time program of publicly funded Human Papillomavirus (HPV) vaccination (Cervarix™) at no cost to women 26 years of age and younger, at the time of commencement, and born before 1994. This vaccine protects against 2 types of Human Papillomavirus (HPV) that cause most cervical cancers. This program does not have a specific end date, and will continue until supplies are depleted. Pharmacists authorized to administer immunizations have access to Cervarix™, and can administer it to eligible

B.C. residents. Please visit the Professionals sections of the Immunize BC website and HPV Vaccine Section for Health Professionals on the BCCDC website. <http://www.bccdc.ca/dis-cond/comm-manual/CDManualChap2.html>. The vaccination program is supported by new online tools including [www.dontgetcancer.ca](http://www.dontgetcancer.ca). On this site clients can get text reminders for follow-up doses, find clinics close to them, and get access to different information about HPV. Clients can also receive text messaging reminders for this vaccine as they can for any other vaccines through the Immunize BC website. The partnership between public health and pharmacists allows the public more access to this vaccine as we strive to reduce rates of HPV.

## Northern Health Webpage for Community Vaccine Providers

The collaborative efforts between community vaccine providers (CVP) and public health to share in the public demand for immunization services and increased accessibility to publicly funded vaccines has been a very successful partnership. NH is celebrating the one year anniversary of the launch on the NH webpage for CVP. This webpage is a communications tool to share and promote immunization information and resources with all CVP within the NH region. Included on the NH webpage are links to BCCDC cold chain resources as well as the cold chain incident forms. You will also find the forms

requested in NH for vaccine ordering and return, and those needed for utilization reports. For more information and to view the resources available, please visit: <http://www.northernhealth.ca/Professionals/ImmunizationResourcesTools.aspx>

A reminder for all CVP to contact their local health unit in the event of a cold chain incident for further consultation and next steps. As the influenza season is now over, we would also like to remind all CVP to please return the influenza vaccine to their local health unit.

## Immunization Communication Tool

Another great resource for immunizers is the Immunization Communication Tool. This is a project of the British Columbia Immunization Committee Professional Education Working Group. This document provides information on such things as vaccine safety, components of vaccines, and other useful information that can be shared with your clients. This resource can be accessed at [http://www.immunizebc.ca/sites/default/files/docs/ict\\_final.pdf](http://www.immunizebc.ca/sites/default/files/docs/ict_final.pdf)



## Pharmacist to Know Kris Scott, BScPharm



As a pharmacist who is trained to provide immunizations, I am excited by the continually evolving and expanding role that we can play in health care promotion and disease prevention. With increased access to publically funded vaccines at pharmacies, pharmacists can work together with other health care providers to increase the public's access to immunizations. In this flu season alone, Shoppers Drug Mart Prince Rupert was able to provide over 750 flu shots to community members, and I am very proud to have played a part in this. We would not have been able to do this without the excellent support of our local health unit.

*Kris Scott, BScPharm  
Shoppers Drug Mart Prince  
Rupert*

## Collaboration between Public Health and Pharmacists

On behalf of Public Health Nursing staff across the North West, I would like to thank local community vaccine providers

for your efforts to help reduce the transmission of vaccine preventable diseases in our communities.

The participation of pharmacists in the provision of publicly funded vaccines is having positive impacts on many levels. People now have greater choice about when and where to go for their vaccines. As the availability of vaccine providers has increased, we have observed reduced wait times at our clinics for vaccinations.

This has really helped us to increase the timeliness of influenza immunization in the fall. Importantly, as conflicting information on vaccines and vaccine safety continue to circulate in the media, trusted pharmacists are helping to dispel myths and increase public confidence in vaccine safety.

We have enjoyed working with you over the past several years and look forward to continued collaboration.

Sincerely,

*Jane Boutette  
Program Manager for Prince  
Rupert and Haida Gwaii*



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