

July 23, 2018

Dear Health Care Provider:

I would like to inform you of changes to the publicly funded immunization program and provide information regarding the **Special Immunization Clinic** at the Izaak Walton Killam (IWK) Health Centre. The policy changes will be reflected August 1st, 2018 in the **Nova Scotia Publicly Funded Vaccine/Immunoglobulin Eligibility Policy** which can be found at <http://novascotia.ca/DHW/CDPC/info-for-professionals.asp>

Pregnancy: (Starting August 1, 2018)

- **Tetanus Toxoid, Reduced Diphtheria Toxoid and Reduced Acellular pertussis (Tdap)** vaccine should be offered in **every** pregnancy irrespective of previous Tdap immunization as per the 2018 recommendation of the National Advisory Committee on Immunization. Ideally, Tdap should be offered between 27 and 32 weeks of gestation but may be provided from 13 weeks up to the time of delivery. Tdap in pregnancy has been shown to protect infants less than 3 months of age and no significant safety issues have been identified.

Influenza Program: (Starting in October 2018)

- **Fluzone® High-Dose** vaccine will be available to **Long Term Care Facility (Nursing Home and Residential Care) residents 65 years of age and older** for the 2018-19 influenza season. More information for health care providers will be outlined in further communication related to the seasonal influenza program.

School Based Program: (Starting in the 2018-2019 school year)

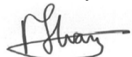
- The **Human Papillomavirus (HPV)** vaccine offered to both males and females in grade 7 will be **Gardasil® 9**. This is a product change from the previously offered **Gardasil® 4**.

Special Immunization Clinic (SIC)

Adults and children who experience potentially severe adverse events following immunization such as suspected allergic events, Arthus reaction or nodule at the injection site, neurological symptoms, hypotonic hyporesponsive episodes or persistent crying for >3 hours and who require further immunizations may be referred to the Special Immunization Clinic for evaluation by an infectious disease specialist or allergist, as appropriate. Referrals may be faxed to 902-470-7232, Attention: SIC. For more information about the Special Immunization Clinic, please contact: sicnurse@iwk.nshealth.ca or call Karen Branscombe at 902-470-7859.

Thank you for your continued support and commitment to the publicly funded immunization program.

Sincerely,



Dr. Robert Strang
Chief Medical Officer of Health
Nova Scotia Department of Health and Wellness