A Back to School message from the School Immunization Program

Welcome back to a brand new school year, we hope this message finds you healthy and safe. We are pleased to continue to provide immunization services to your school community as long as COVID-19 response measures allow.

When schools closed in March 2020, our school-based immunization program was unable to continue as school immunization teams were redeployed to respond to the COVID-19 crisis.

Due to this suspension in service, you will notice some changes to our program this year as we attempt to "catch-up":

1. Students in grade 6 in the 2019-2020 school year (now in grade 7) who did not complete their Hepatitis B (HBV) and/or Human Papillomavirus (HPV) and/or any outstanding routine vaccine series will be immunized within the school setting. We will only immunize those students with a signed consent form from the previous school year(s).

2. Students in other grades where an immunization consent form was signed in the previous school year(s) will be immunized in the school setting in order to complete any outstanding immunization series.

If you do not wish your child to complete their immunization series or your child was immunized privately within the past 6 months, please contact your school's designated Community Health Centre.

More information will be available in the coming weeks regarding school-based immunizations for our target grade 6 and 9 students. Public Health is developing strategies to address access to immunization for those students enrolled in alternative learning environments this school year.

Visit www.immunizealberta.ca for more information about which vaccines are offered to students in Alberta.

During times of pandemic, such as COVID-19, we are reminded of how important it is utilize the immunizations that protect us against vaccine-preventable diseases like measles and pertussis that are still present globally and locally.

We look forward to working with our school communities again to help keep students healthy.