



BC Centre for Disease Control
AN AGENCY OF THE PROVINCIAL HEALTH SERVICES AUTHORITY

November 13, 2009

ATTN: Medical Health Officers and Branch Offices
Public Health Nursing Administrators and Assistant Administrators
Holders of Communicable Disease Control Manuals

**Re: Revision to Communicable Disease Control Manual:
Chapter 2: Immunization Program, Section VII – Biological Products**

Please note the following:

Page 30a, pH1N1 Adjuvanted Influenza Vaccine (Arepanrix™):

- In line with an announcement made yesterday by the Public Health Agency of Canada, the dosing regimen has been changed for **healthy** children 3 to 9 years of age. They are to receive a single half-dose of the H1N1 vaccine, and do not need to return for a second half-dose of vaccine **for now**. Parents should be informed to check for updates to this recommendation in 3-4 weeks on the provincial web sites or call their immunization provider to inquire. The updated recommendations reflect findings of clinical trials in Europe that suggest a single half-dose of adjuvanted H1N1 flu vaccine for healthy children may provide an acceptable level of protection from infection from the H1N1 flu virus. The new recommendations and the studies they are based on have been reviewed with the Canadian Paediatric Society and the provinces and territories. The recommendations reflect the need to adopt a prudent approach to protecting younger children with weaker immune systems and children with underlying medical conditions. The decision also takes into account the need to protect the public's health: to get more people vaccinated as soon as possible, especially those in high-risk groups. This decision frees up valuable resources. Further adjustments to the vaccine dosage recommendations may be made once the results of additional research and clinical trials on vaccine effectiveness are available.

Page 30b, pH1N1 Adjuvanted Influenza Vaccine (Arepanrix™) (cont'd):

- At the request of field staff, added the thimerosal content (i.e., 5 µg per 0.5 ml dose).

Administrative Circular 2009:25



Page 30c, Influenza A (H1N1) 2009 Pandemic Monovalent Vaccine (Without Adjuvant)

- This page replaces the previous page, dated October 29, 2009 that was based on prior information supplied by the vaccine manufacturer, GSK.
- The vaccine was authorized for sale on November 12, 2009 by Health Canada.
- It is to be used for pregnant women at any stage of pregnancy and healthy individuals 10 to 64 years of age.

Please remove and destroy the following pages from the Communicable Disease Control Manual, Chapter 2: Immunization Program, Section VII – Biological Products:

Pages 30a, b, and c

Dated October 29, 2009

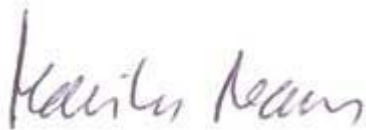
Please insert the following pages into the Communicable Disease Control Manual, Chapter 2: Immunization Program, Section VII – Biological Products:

Pages 30a, b, and c

Dated November 13, 2009

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Karen Pielak, Nurse Epidemiologist, or Cheryl McIntyre, Associate Nurse Epidemiologist, at telephone (604) 707-2517, fax (604) 707-2516, or by email to karen.pielak@bccdc.ca or cheryl.mcintyre@bccdc.ca

Sincerely,



Dr. Monika Naus,
Medical Director, Immunization Program and
Associate Medical Director, Epidemiology Services
BC Centre for Disease Control

pc: Ministry of Healthy Living and Sport:

Dr. Perry Kendall
Provincial Health Officer

Dr. Eric Young
Deputy Provincial Health Officer

Dr. Bob Fisk
Medical Consultant
Non-Communicable Disease

Craig Thompson
Director, CD Prevention – Immunization

Warren O'Briain
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