

**Seeking pharmacies wishing to partner in immunization campaign of school age children  
during the 2019-2020 school year**

Vancouver Coastal Health (VCH) appreciates the support of community immunizers in our immunization campaigns. This fall, health authorities are launching a catch-up campaign of school age children. Though school age immunization programs for target grades (Kindergarten, 6 and 9) are primarily delivered by public health in the school setting, this catch up campaign will be implemented in partnership with community immunizers.

**Reason for the campaign:** Under the new Vaccine Status Reporting Regulations implemented in July 2019, health authorities are expected to identify children whose immunization records are missing some or all vaccines. We will be notifying families to alert them to the new regulations, and request them to provide records or to encourage them to have their children be immunized.

**How the campaign will be implemented by VCH:**

1. Using our public health records, we are in the process of identifying children (ages 5-19) whose records are incomplete.
2. We will mail a personalized Immunization Notice to the eligible children/families identifying which vaccines are recommended to bring them up to date.
3. Families are asked to locate records and send them to public health, or they may have their child be immunized by public health or designated\* community locations.
4. Immunization records from community locations need to be sent to public health for documentation.

**\*Designated community locations for immunization of school age children:** Vaccines used in the school age immunization program are generally only available through public health. This is because, unlike the influenza program, these vaccines are offered to a small proportion of the population, and therefore are ordered in very limited quantities. Several of these vaccines are also very expensive, precluding liberal distribution. Thus, for this campaign, we unfortunately cannot distribute these vaccines to all interested community immunizers but will need to pre-select community partners so that parents can be directed to locations carrying the right vaccines.

**We invite you to consider becoming a designate site for this campaign:** Taking into consideration the objectives of this campaign, the needs of the client and the health care system, and with a view to equity towards our community partners, here are our proposed criteria for site selection. We are trying to be fair so if you feel these criteria can be improved, please do let us know.

**Criteria for community sites:**

1. Operated by physicians or pharmacists (working within a diverse group of pharmacy chains)
2. Provide after-hours (evenings/weekends) access
3. Increases access across geography
4. Immunize students ages 5 and older
5. Agree to report immunization records to public health

If you are interested in immunizing students 5 years and older within the 2019-2020 school year, please contact [Sabrina.PurewalGill@vch.ca](mailto:Sabrina.PurewalGill@vch.ca) and provide your location, contact person name, phone number, and pharmacy hours.

Questions or concerns about this proposal: Please connect with [Dr. Meena Dawar](#) or [Cindy Masaro](#).  
Thank you and we look forward to hearing from you soon.