

15 February 2019

Office of the Chief Medical Health Officer

Measles Outbreak in Vancouver

We are currently experiencing a measles outbreak in Vancouver with most cases attending Jules Verne School. At this time, 4 lab confirmed, and 5 epidemiologically linked clinical cases of measles have been reported, all in school aged children. Other residents of VCH may have been exposed to the disease in a variety of public locations between January 17th and February 14th.

Measles initially presents with a fever, cough, runny nose, and conjunctivitis, which is then followed a few days later by a red maculopapular rash. The rash begins in the hairline and spreads rapidly to the face, trunk and limbs. Koplik spots, if present, fade as the rash appears.

Please take this opportunity to immunize against measles. Two doses of MMR vaccine are recommended for individuals born after January 1, 1970; those born before that date are considered to be immune. Health care workers born between 1957 and 1969 are also recommended to have two doses of MMR vaccine. Individuals with an uncertain immunization history may also be immunized.

We appreciate that pharmacists do not immunize young children. However, as you may receive questions about infants, please note, our recommendations have not changed. Infants should be offered MMR vaccine starting with their first birthday. We are not currently recommending early vaccination of children aged 6-12 months. To date, all cases have occurred among school aged children and their family members. For this reason, we do not believe that early immunization is currently necessary but this recommendation could change if we see wider transmission in our community.

Ordering MMR vaccine: Publicly-funded MMR vaccine is available from the same VCH Community Health Centre (CHC) which fills your routine vaccine orders. “

Influenza vaccination campaign 2018-2019

Thank you for offering influenza vaccine during the current campaign. Please continue to offer vaccine until April 30th, at which time remaining vaccine can be returned to your local CHC. Should you need more vaccine, please connect with your CHC.

You can reach a Medical Health Officer in Vancouver at 604.675.3900 Toll free at 1.855.675.3900

Vancouver Medical Health Officers

Dr. Patricia Daly (Chief Medical Health Officer)

Dr. Réka Gustafson, Dr. John Harding, Dr. Althea Hayden, Dr. James Lu

To receive Pharmacists' Updates by email please contact us at: vchregistrationcdc@vch.ca