

Communications Office
Peterborough County-City Health Unit
10 Hospital Drive
Peterborough, ON K9J 8M1
(705) 743-1000, ext. 391
www.pcchu.ca



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Parents Reminded to Submit Updated Immunization Records

Health Unit Begins Issuing Suspension Letters to Students Without Current Immunization Information on File

Wednesday, October 20, 2010, Peterborough

The Peterborough County-City Health Unit reminds parents that students whose immunizations are not up to date or whose immunization records are not on file at the health unit could face suspension from class.

"While we do all we can to notify parents that their children's immunization records are incomplete, each year there are parents who overlook this task or who are unaware that they need to inform the health unit when their children receive vaccines," said Dr. Rosana Pellizzari, Medical Officer of Health. "We appreciate how busy parents are and issue the suspension notices as a last resort."

This month requests for immunization information were issued for an estimated 1500 students to inform parents that they are required to bring the students' records up to date or their children face suspension.

The Immunization of School Pupils Act requires health units to obtain complete records of all students on the status of their immunizations for measles, mumps, rubella, tetanus, diphtheria and polio.

"We need up-to-date records to protect the health of all students in school," said Dr. Pellizzari. "In the event that there is an outbreak of one of the listed diseases, we can quickly identify which students are not vaccinated and take measures to protect them from becoming infected."

Records include both vaccination information and signed affidavits stating exemptions due to conscience or religious belief. Immunization records are normally kept on yellow cards available through the Health Unit or health care providers. Dr. Pellizzari added that once the parents contact the health unit, the information can be quickly updated. "We will do our best to help parents keep their child in school. My goal would to have all children up to date with immunizations with no disruptions to their studies," she said.

continued...

NEWS RELEASE

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For more information on vaccines and student immunization records, visit the health unit website at www.pcchu.ca/immunization , or call the Health Unit at 705-743-1000 weekdays from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

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