

TO: Media

RE: Catch-Up Vaccinations Offered To Young Adults at Risk for Contagious Mumps

DATE: January 23, 2009

Young adults who may be at risk of developing mumps, are being offered a chance to be protected in a catch-up program organized by the Peterborough County-City Health Unit. College and university students are particularly at risk because they may not have received a second dose of mumps vaccine required for full protection and they live and socialize in close proximity.

The Ontario government is encouraging young adults to receive their measles, mumps, rubella (MMR) vaccine. The move comes in response to mumps outbreaks in Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Alberta and British Columbia.

People born before 1970 are assumed to be immune to mumps through natural infection. Most people born between 1970 and 1991 received only a single dose of the combined MMR (measles, mumps, rubella) vaccine and are at risk for mumps. People born in 1992 or after should have received two doses of the MMR vaccine. To be fully protected from contracting mumps, anyone born after 1970 who has received only one dose of the MMR vaccine requires a second dose.

The Health Unit will be offering the MMR vaccine to all current post-secondary students at campus clinics. The vaccination is also available through family doctors for anyone who needs a second dose of MMR.

All young adults are encouraged to review their personal immunization record to determine if they need a second dose of the vaccine. If individuals cannot locate their immunization record, it is recommended that they take advantage of the catch-up program and receive one dose.

The Health Unit will be offering mumps clinics as follows:

Trent University (Athletics Complex)	February 2	12:00 pm to 3:00 pm
Sir Sanford Fleming College (Brealey)	February 9	10:00 am to 2:00 pm
Trent University (Athletics Complex)	February 10	12:00 pm to 3:00 pm
Sir Sanford Fleming College (Brealey)	February 11	10:00 am to 2:00 pm

For more information, go to [www.ontario.ca/mumps](http://www.ontario.ca/mumps)

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