

July 16, 2020

Dear Alberta Parents/Guardians,

These are extraordinary times, and Alberta Health Services (AHS) has had to temporarily shift some of our service delivery to meet new healthcare demands. As such, to slow down the spread of COVID-19, and to ensure health resources are available to support the urgent needs of all Albertans, **adjustments to some essential services have been made.**

Public Health routine immunization programs are considered essential and have continued in order to protect our population. During times of a pandemic, we are reminded of how important it is to be immunized to protect against vaccine-preventable diseases like measles and pertussis that are still present around the world and locally. However, some adjustments have been made:

- **Infant immunizations** (at 2, 4, 6 and 12 months of age) continue to be offered at all AHS public health clinics. These clinics include immunization, infant height and weight, post-partum depression screen and review of parental concerns.
- **18 month and pre-school immunizations** continue. These clinics include immunization, height and weight and review of parental concerns.
- **School immunization** series commenced in the **2019-2020** school year, which include delayed immunizations for all grades and immunization of Grade 6 and 9 students, were suspended because of school closures in mid-March.
- Temporary suspension of routine **adult immunizations**.

AHS Public Health is working to resume full immunization services as the Alberta COVID-19 Relaunch Strategy progresses.

- Routine childhood immunization appointments are proceeding as booked, and new appointments continue to be taken. These appointments are shorter in length, but ensure all Albertan children continue to be protected.
- School immunizations that were not completed in the 2019-2020 school year will be completed. Public Health will inform parents of the plan for completion of immunizations when confirmed with school and school jurisdiction
- Routine adult immunizations will be available as clinics are re-established. Public Health will follow up with individuals to rebook cancelled appointments, and take new bookings.

All programs and services provided by Public Health will follow physical distancing principles.

As Alberta's COVID-19 Relaunch Strategy moves forward, further updates can be found at Alberta Health and Alberta Health Services websites:

- [www.alberta.ca/coronavirus](http://www.alberta.ca/coronavirus)
- [www.ahs.ca/ncov](http://www.ahs.ca/ncov)

We greatly appreciate the understanding of our clients as we continue to triage staff and resources to respond to the most urgent and critical needs.

Dr. Nick Etches MD FRCPC

Acting Zone Lead Medical Officer of Health, Calgary Zone, Alberta Health Services

Medical Director, Public Health, Calgary Zone, Alberta Health Services