



**Office of the  
Chief Medical  
Health Officer**

**May 8th, 2018**

**Rotavirus vaccine change**

Beginning May 2018, BC will begin transitioning from the monovalent rotavirus vaccine (RV1, Rotarix®) to the pentavalent rotavirus vaccine (RV5, RotaTeq®) in the infant rotavirus immunization program. Both products are live attenuated vaccines that are given orally.

The schedule for RotaTeq® is **3 doses**, as compared to 2 doses for Rotarix®. RotaTeq® vaccine is given orally at 2, 4 and 6 months of age. The maximum age for the first dose of RotaTeq® is 20 weeks less 1 day and the maximum age for the last dose is 8 months. Ideally, infants who begin their series with Rotarix® should complete their series with the same product. If any dose of an infant's series was RotaTeq® (or the product is unknown), a total of 3 doses should be administered.

Contraindications for the two products are the same. See the Rotavirus vaccine Healthfile (<https://www.healthlinkbc.ca/healthlinkbc-files/rotavirus-vaccine>) and the BCCDC Immunization Clinical Resources website for more information (<http://www.bccdc.ca/health-professionals/clinical-resources/immunization#Clinical--Resources>)

**Updated national recommendation on pertussis vaccination in pregnancy**

The National Advisory Committee on Immunization (NACI) has now recommended pertussis vaccine for pregnant women, in every pregnancy, irrespective of previous Tdap immunization history for the protection of newborns. This now aligns with current US Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices recommendations. As placental transfer of maternal antibodies is optimal in third trimester, Tdap vaccine should ideally be provided between 27 and 32 weeks of gestation, though it can be provided at any time from 13 weeks to delivery. The use of Tdap in pregnancy is not yet funded provincially and women will need to purchase Tdap vaccine at a pharmacy or travel clinic.

**Dental Health:**

**Recommend Families Use Fluoride Toothpaste as Soon as first Tooth Appears**

There is no fluoride in public water systems on Vancouver Island. Fluoride helps build strong teeth and prevents tooth decay. Delivering fluoride via a fluoridated toothpaste helps build strength into baby teeth as they erupt. Dental caries, particularly in childhood, are a significant health burden on our communities and families.

As physicians and other healthcare providers, please reinforce the power of preventative dental care by recommending to your patients and their families to:

- Use a fluoride toothpaste twice a day to help rebuild enamel after eating.
- Use an amount equal in size to a grain of rice for children age 0 to 3 years of age.
- Use an amount equal in size to a small pea for children 3+ years .

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**Vibrio Cholera update**

No additional lab-confirmed cases of vibrio cholera infection have occurred on Vancouver Island since the cluster reported in March 2018 that was associated with consumption of raw herring eggs. The type of Vibrio cholera identified appears to be a non-epidemic strain that can occur naturally in the marine environment and infrequently causes human illness. Cooking seafood products and storing foods at safe temperatures are recommended to decrease risk of illness.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dee Hoyano".

Dee Hoyano, MD, FRCPC, CCFP  
Medical Health Officer

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