July 2, 2015

To: Interested Parties

Subject: Measles Outbreak 2015 and Ontario's Immunization System - Item HL5.3

On June 29, 2015, the Toronto Board of Health adopted this item and among other things forwards the report (June 11, 2015) from the Toronto Medical Officer of Health to Ontario's Interim Chief Medical Officer of Health, the Ministers of Health and Long-Term Care, Education, and Children and Youth Services, Public Health Ontario, the Provincial Infectious Diseases Advisory Committee on Immunization, the Association of Local Public Health Agencies, the Council of Medical Officers of Health in Ontario, the Ontario Public Health Association, the Canadian Paediatric Society, the Canadian Association of Chain Drug Stores, the Ontario Medical Association and the Ontario Pharmacists Association.

The Board of Health also:

1. Reiterated its request to the Minister of Health and Long-Term Care and the Interim Chief Medical Officer of Health to develop a comprehensive provincial immunization registry for all health care professionals to access and input immunization records, covering all Ontarians from birth to adulthood.

2. Urged the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care to fund medical consultations and vaccines required for international travel to help prevent the local spread of imported infections from returning travellers.

3. Requested the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care and the Ministry of Children and Youth Services to amend the Child Care and Early Years Act, 2014 (which replaces the Day Nurseries Act), to require children who attend a day nursery to be fully immunized in accordance with Ontario's publicly funded immunization schedule and to harmonize the immunization requirements between schools and day nurseries.

4. Requested the Minister of Health and Long-Term Care to amend the Immunization of School Pupils Act to require a physician to complete a form stating the parent(s) is aware of the risks of not vaccinating their child for religious or philosophical reasons, in addition to the requirement of parents submitting a notarized exemption form.

5. Reiterated its request to the Minister of Health and Long-Term Care to develop a comprehensive, innovative and on-going communication strategy and campaign to address vaccine hesitancy and promote the importance of publicly funded vaccines.
To view this item and background information online, please visit:

Sincerely,

Nancy Martins
Secretary,
Board of Health
Nancy Martins/ac

Sent to:    Ontario Minister of Education
          Public Health Ontario
          Provincial Infectious Diseases Advisory Committee on Immunization
          Association of Local Public Health Agencies
          Council of Medical Officers of Health in Ontario
          Ontario Public Health Association
          Canadian Paediatric Society
          Canadian Association of Chain Drug Stores
          Ontario Medical Association and the Ontario Pharmacists Association.

cc        Dr. David McKeown, Medical Officer of Health, Toronto Public Health