

## **SCHOOL IMMUNIZATION PROGRAMS**

Immunization services are offered to children, in the school setting, in Kindergarten, grades six, nine and twelve as recommended by the B.C. Ministry of Health, according to the following schedule:

### ***Kindergarten***

The immunization status of all students is assessed when they begin at school entry and updated throughout the school year. Parents are notified of any immunizations that are missing for their child by public health.

Parents are reminded that Kindergarten students are due for their school entry booster of Diphtheria, Pertussis, Tetanus and Polio.

Additional health services provided to Kindergarten students in the school setting include a hearing and dental screen. Parents will be notified if there are any concerns. All children entering Kindergarten should receive a thorough vision examination by an eye doctor.

### ***Grade 6***

All grade 6 students in British Columbia are targeted for immunization against Hepatitis B and Meningococcal C. The Hepatitis B immunization involves 2 injections and Meningococcal C conjugate vaccine involves 1 injection. These are scheduled for fall and spring school clinics.

Grade 6 students are also offered Varicella (chickenpox) vaccine if they have not been previously immunized or had chicken pox disease.

Parents are reminded that all consents are required to be returned to the school even if the child has already been immunized.

### ***Grade 9***

All grade 9 students in British Columbia are targeted to receive a booster injection for tetanus, diphtheria and pertussis (whooping cough). Any student having missed Meningococcal C vaccine in Grade 6 will be offered the vaccine again at this time.

### ***Grade 12***

Grade 12 students will be offered Meningococcal C vaccine for this school year (2006/07). This is a two-year catch up program (2005/06 2006/07) to ensure students from grade 6 to grade 12 are protected against Meningococcal C disease.

### ***Tetanus and Diphtheria Immunization for School Staff***

Tetanus and Diphtheria boosters are offered to school staff at their work site (in conjunction with the grade 9 program) to those who have not had a booster dose in the last 10 years.

### ***New to Canada***

Immunization status is assessed and vaccines offered as required.