

# MEMO

Date	<b>June 3, 2020</b>
To	<b>Northern Health Operational Leaders, Community Service Staff and Physicians</b>
From	<b>Penny Anguish, NI COO, NH EOC Operational Lead Raina Fumerton, NH Chief Medical Health Officer</b>
CC	<b>Angela De Smit, NE COO; Ciro Panessa, NW COO; Northern Health Medical Directors; NH EOC</b>
Item	<b>COVID-19 Response - BCCDC Immunization Guidance and Updated School Health Priorities for 2019/20 School Year</b>

As part of our ongoing COVID-19 response, and in light of disruptions in school attendance, the following updated guidance is provided for immunization and school health priorities for the remainder of the 2019/20 school year (follow-up to the [School Health Priorities memo](#), dated August 23, 2019).

**Continuity, prioritization, and safe delivery of immunization services:** To mitigate any presumed negative impact of COVID-19 pandemic on immunization continuity, BCCDC has added a new section to the Communicable Disease Control Manual providing [guidance to immunization providers on the prioritization of infant, childhood, and adult immunization programs during the COVID-19 pandemic](#) (April 9, 2020). This guidance can be used by IPTs to support local decision making.

**Priority tasks for IPTs for the remainder of the 2019/2020 school year:**

1. Regarding students with potentially life threatening medical conditions:
  - Ensure schools have a primary and ongoing contact with a primary care nurse or other members of the IPT for planning and consultation.
  - Continue to provide education as required for school staff around potentially life threatening illnesses such as anaphylaxis, epilepsy, and diabetes (include glucagon administration training when requested by a parent).
  - Refer children and youth to nursing support services when required.
2. Continue to plan, coordinate, and implement immunization programs for students in grade 6 and grade 9 (see considerations below).
3. Continue to plan, coordinate, and implement kindergarten immunization programs, as appropriate.
4. Continue to provide follow-up for questions and investigations related to communicable disease, including more urgent infectious diseases, such as measles, mumps, or pertussis.

**Considerations:**

PPH recommends that teams offer regularly scheduled vaccines before the 2020/21 school year if they have the capacity and can meet the requirements of the [Clinical](#)

[Response Guidelines for COVID-19 for community-based services](#). Please also see Appendix A: [considerations in the provision of regularly scheduled immunizations in COVID-19](#).

To keep community partners and families apprised of NH's commitment to immunization continuity, the following will be sent in the week of June 1 via the Office of the Chief Medical Health Officer:

- [Letter to Superintendents of Public Schools and Independent School Authorities](#)
- [Letter to parents, guardians, and caregivers](#)

For more information, please contact Petrina Bryant, Regional Nursing Lead, Health Schools at 250-649-7543 or [Petrina.Bryant@northernhealth.ca](mailto:Petrina.Bryant@northernhealth.ca)