

Shortage of Td-IPV vaccine

The Ministry of Health and Long-term Care has informed Toronto Public Health (TPH) that Ontario has a limited quantity of Td-IPV vaccine at this time (tetanus, diphtheria, and inactivated poliovirus). Additional supply will not be available until June 2011.

Physicians are being asked to reduce their supply to avoid wastage and to ensure patients who need the vaccine will receive it.

Recommended guidelines for use

According to the Canadian Immunization Guide, 2007, booster doses of polio vaccine are not routinely recommended for adults who have completed the primary series of polio vaccine in childhood. The exception is for those persons at high risk of exposure to polio.

Td-IPV can be given to persons who are due for a Td booster and are at high risk of exposure to poliovirus (e.g., travellers going to destinations where polio is endemic or where there are outbreaks occurring^{1,2}, documented outbreaks of VAPP (vaccine associated paralytic polio) and workers in refugee camps), if their last dose of polio vaccine is 10 years or more ago. IPV can be given alone if Td vaccine is not required.

Td-IPV vaccine is indicated for individuals 7 years and older who have not completed their primary vaccine series. However, according to Ontario's publicly funded immunization schedule, **for children 7 to 18 years of age the preferred vaccines are TdaP (Adacel®) and IPV (2 separate injections)**. Td-IPV is generally only used if there is a contraindication to the pertussis component or they do not want protection against pertussis.

Adolescents 14 to 16 years old should be offered a booster dose of TdaP (Adacel®), not Td-IPV.

Adults should be offered Td vaccine every ten years.

In summary, there is a shortage of Td-IPV vaccine in Ontario. Physicians are encouraged to provide the vaccine only to the small group of individuals for whom it is indicated. IPV can be given alone if Td vaccine is not required.

If you have any questions please call the Toronto Public Health Immunization Information Line at 416-392-1250.

¹ Committee to Advise on Tropical Medicine and Travel (CATMAT) Statement. Statement on Pediatric Travellers 2010. Available at: <http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/publicat/ccdr-rmtc/10vol36/acs-3/june-juin-2010-eng.php>

² Public Health Agency of Canada. Polio: Global Update. Travel Health Notice. Available at: <http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/tmp-pmv/thn-csv/polio-eng.php>