

## **Day Nursery Immunization Program**

<b>Date:</b>	February 17, 2015
<b>To:</b>	Budget Committee
<b>From:</b>	Medical Officer of Health
<b>Wards:</b>	All
<b>Reference Number:</b>	

### **SUMMARY**

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The current outbreak of measles in Toronto is a reminder that the control of vaccine preventable diseases requires high levels of immunization in the population. The Ontario Public Health Standards require local boards of health to implement a number of vaccine preventable disease control programs, including measures, to ensure high levels of immunization in children attending day nurseries. There are approximately 950 day nurseries serving 40,000 non-school aged children in the City of Toronto.

Toronto Public Health does not currently have some of the key requirements of a comprehensive day nursery immunization program, including the ability to receive and assess immunization records for children in day care, and contact parents whose children have incomplete immunization records to ensure they are up-to-date. This program would also facilitate rapid assessment of immunization status when necessary for the control of outbreaks in day nurseries.

This report requests additional funding in the Toronto Public Health 2015 Operating budget to begin implementation of a day nursery immunization program in 2015 by hiring two permanent nurses to visit all 950 centres and provide day nursery operators with education, promotional materials, recommendations and tools to assist them in meeting their responsibilities with regards to immunizations and increasing their knowledge about their role for immunization under the Day Nurseries Act. The program would create additional promotional materials that day nursery operators can distribute to parents to increase compliance. This would allow TPH to meet four of the six requirements in the Ontario Public Health Standards, and would support planning to determine the most efficient way to transfer immunization records from Toronto day nurseries into the provincial electronic immunization database, Panorama.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

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### **The Medical Officer of Health recommends that:**

1. City Council approve an increase of \$0.192 million gross and \$0.048 million net and two permanent positions to the 2015 Staff Recommended Operating Budget for Toronto Public Health for the start up cost of a Day Nursery Immunization Program; and
2. This report be forwarded to the Board of Health for information.

### **Financial Impact**

The 2015 Staff Recommended Operating Budget for Toronto Public Health will be increased by \$0.192 million gross and \$0.048 million net and 2 positions.

The program will be cost shared between the Province (75%) and the City (25%). The 2015 funding is required to begin the implementation of a day nursery program. The completion of the implementation as well as future enhancement requests will be included in the future years operating budget submissions for Toronto Public Health.

The full cost of the day nursery immunization will be determined in 2015 and will be included in future years operating budget requests.

The Deputy City Manager and Chief Financial Officer has reviewed this report and agrees with the financial impact information.

### **DECISION HISTORY**

On February 10<sup>th</sup>, 2015, City Council adopted the following motion (MM 3.37) on Day Nursery Immunization:

1. City Council request the Medical Officer of Health to report to the Budget Committee for consideration in the 2015 budget process on the potential enhancements to existing public health programs to ensure children in day nurseries are adequately immunized.

[http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2015.MM3.37&utm\\_source=&utm\\_medium=&utm\\_campaign=](http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2015.MM3.37&utm_source=&utm_medium=&utm_campaign=)

### **ISSUE BACKGROUND**

Immunization is a vital preventative measure that has eliminated many severe and contagious infectious diseases. The current outbreak of measles in Toronto is a reminder that the control of vaccine preventable diseases requires high levels of immunization in the population. Children attending day nurseries represent a vulnerable population; they are completing their primary series of immunizations and spend considerable time in a closed environment where communicable diseases can spread rapidly. There are

approximately 950 day nurseries serving 40,000 non-school aged children in the City of Toronto.

The Ontario Public Health Standards require local boards of health to ensure high levels of immunization among children attending schools and day nurseries. Specifically, the 2013 Ontario Public Health Standards, Immunization Management Protocol, section 6 requires boards of health to:

- ensure that operators of licensed day nurseries receive annual recommendations from the medical officer of health
- ensure that the recommendations are, at a minimum, according to the current provincial publicly funded immunization schedule
- provide information and recommendations to parents of children enrolled in licensed day nurseries with respect to immunizations recommended by the medical officer of health.
- ensure that licensed day nursery attendees have access to immunization services
- provide annual education with regard to immunization recommendations to licensed day nursery operators.
- assess and maintain records of the immunization status of attendees of all licensed day nurseries in the health unit on an annual basis to ensure that children are up-to-date with their immunizations as recommended by the medical officer of health (or have a valid exemption)

Ontario Public Health Standards, Immunization Management Protocol 2013

Accessed at:

[http://www.health.gov.on.ca/en/pro/programs/publichealth/oph\\_standards/ophprotocols.aspx](http://www.health.gov.on.ca/en/pro/programs/publichealth/oph_standards/ophprotocols.aspx)

Furthermore, the Day Nurseries Act provides requirements for each day nursery operator to ensure that before a child is admitted to a day nursery operated by the operator or to a location where private-home day care is provided by the operator, and from time to time thereafter, the child is immunized as recommended by the local medical officer of health. R.R.O. 1990, Reg. 262, s. 33 (1)

Day Nurseries Act 1990. Accessed at:

[http://www.e-laws.gov.on.ca/html/regs/english/elaws\\_regs\\_900262\\_e.htm](http://www.e-laws.gov.on.ca/html/regs/english/elaws_regs_900262_e.htm)

Immunization rates of the MMR vaccine among school aged children is over 91% and is assessed annually by Toronto Public Health. Immunization rates of children attending day nurseries are not collected and assessed by Toronto Public Health even though it is a provincial requirement. If Toronto Public Health receives immunization information from a day nursery, the information is entered into the immunization information system; however the information is not actively sought. Toronto Public Health collects immunization information if there is an outbreak of a vaccine preventable disease, such as measles, in the day nursery to ensure that children who are exposed are protected.

This collection and assessment is just-in-time and often creates delays in the collection and assessment of the immunization records of children in the facility.

## **COMMENTS**

Toronto Public Health does not currently deliver some of the key requirements of a comprehensive day nursery immunization program, including the ability to receive and assess immunization records for children in day care, and contact parents whose children have incomplete immunization records to ensure they are up-to-date. This program would also facilitate rapid assessment of immunization status when necessary for the control of outbreaks, such as measles, in day nurseries.

This report requests funding in the Toronto Public Health 2015 operating budget to begin implementation of a day nursery immunization program in 2015. The 2015 funding would allow TPH to meet four of the six requirements in the provincial Standards, and would support planning to determine the most efficient way to transfer immunization records from Toronto day nurseries into the provincial electronic immunization database, Panorama.

Immunization records of school-aged children are already assessed and captured through Toronto Public Health's annual School Immunization Assessment Program. Based on the provincial legislation of the Immunization School Pupils Act, immunization records of school aged children are assessed and students who are not up-to-date or who do not have a valid exemption on file can be suspended from school. The assessment process is facilitated by electronic school board downloads of demographic data of the 350,000 students who attend a public school.

To begin to implement a Day Nursery Immunization Program, two nurses will visit all 950 centres and provide day nursery operators with education, promotional materials, recommendations and tools to assist them in meeting their responsibilities with regards to immunizations. It would include recommendations for day nursery attendees and staff. They can also assess attendees who have exemptions to immunizations and ensure they represent a minority of day care attendees. The goal is to increase a day care operator's knowledge about their role for immunization under the Day Nurseries Act. The program would create additional promotional materials that day nursery operators can distribute to parents to increase compliance.

An IT feasibility study will determine how best to facilitate the electronic collection and inputting of vaccination records from parents and day nursery operators into the provincial electronic immunization information system, Panorama. Panorama is a new provincial immunization registry system that is a more modern and improved system compared to the previous DOS-based systems IRIS. Panorama was implemented at Toronto Public Health in 2014. It provides a new platform for being able to collect and input vaccination records of non-school aged children in an efficient manner. The study will assess the requirements for secure transfer of records and prepare a feasibility report and business case for an implementation strategy. The results of the IT feasibility study

will determine the on-going costs of implementing a complete day nurseries program where vaccination records of day nursery attendees are collected and assessed by Toronto Public Health.

The table below summarizes the 2015 request for Day Nursery Immunization program:

(\$000's)				
Program	Positions	2015 Financial Impact		
		Gross	Revenue	Net
Day Nurseries Immunization				
Base Budget Request	2.0	192.4	(144.3)	48.1
<b>TOTAL</b>	2.0	192.4	(144.3)	48.1

The full cost of the day nursery immunization will be determined in 2015 and will be included in future years operating budget requests.

#### CONTACT

Dr. Rita Shahin  
 Acting Director, Communicable Disease Control  
 & Associate Medical Officer of Health  
 Toronto Public Health  
 Tel: 416-338-7924  
 Email: [rshahin@toronto.ca](mailto:rshahin@toronto.ca)

Dr. Vinita Dubey  
 Associate Medical Officer of Health  
 Toronto Public Health  
 Tel: 416-397-4696  
 Email: [vdubey@toronto.ca](mailto:vdubey@toronto.ca)

#### SIGNATURE




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Dr. David McKeown  
 Medical Officer of Health