

May 3, 2018

## Leaking vaccine syringe - Potential Risk of Underdosing

Leakages have occurred where the ceramic syringe tip and needle connect in several GlaxoSmithKline vaccine products. The integrity of the vaccine is not impacted. However, there is a potential risk of underdosing if a reduced vaccine quantity is administered.

In Canada, the syringe leakage rate is 3 per 100,000 syringes distributed.

### Healthcare providers are advised:

- **If a syringe has leaked before administration:** discard and do not use the vaccine.
- **If the leak occurs during vaccination:** consider revaccination, weighing the benefits and risks associated with a repeated dose. Revaccination can occur at some interval in the future.

### Potential affected vaccines:

- Boostrix<sup>®</sup>, Boostrix<sup>®</sup>-Polio
- Havrix<sup>®</sup>, Havrix<sup>®</sup> Jr
- Infanrix<sup>®</sup>-IPV, Infanrix<sup>®</sup>-IPV /Hib, Infanrix-Hexa<sup>®</sup>
- Twinrix<sup>®</sup>, Twinrix<sup>®</sup> Jr
- Engerix-B<sup>®</sup> [Only Lot AHBVC650AV, Expiry date: March 2020]

### For more information:

- Refer to [Recalls and safety alerts](#) on Government of Canada website
- GSK Pharmaceutical inquiries 1-800-387-7374
- Call Toronto Public Health Immunization Nurses at 416-338-2030