

# SAFETY TALK



## National Immunization Awareness Week

**April 22-30** is National Immunization Awareness Week! Health Care Workers (HCWs) are at risk of exposure to communicable diseases because of their contact with patients/clients (diagnosed or undiagnosed) or their environment. There is also a risk that HCWs could transmit an undiagnosed vaccine-preventable disease to others.

### Definition of a Health Care Worker

A person involved in providing care and/or services within Health PEI facilities and programs. This also includes physicians, students, volunteers, and contract workers (e.g. travel nurses).

### Immunization for HCWs

As guided by the Public Health Agency of Canada:

- Dtap vaccine (Diphtheria, Tetanus, Pertussis/whooping cough)
- Hepatitis B vaccine
- MMR vaccine (Measles, Mumps, Rubella)
- Varicella vaccine (Chicken pox)
- MenACWY vaccine (Meningococcal) for lab workers who handle *N. meningitidis* specimens
- COVID-19 vaccine
- Influenza vaccine



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April 22-30, 2024

### Where can I receive these vaccines?

From your Employee Health Nurse or Public Health Nursing office, at no cost.

Vaccines contain a component or weakened form of a bacteria or virus. The component or weakened form of the bacteria or virus in the vaccine does not cause disease. Vaccines teach our body's immune system how to protect us against a specific type of bacteria or virus.

#### Sources:

Immunize Canada (Immunize.ca).  
Immunization and Tuberculosis Testing policy (Health PEI)  
Recommended Immunization, Healthcare workers (Public Health Agency of Canada)

*Safety is everyone's responsibility!*

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_  
FACILITY: \_\_\_\_\_

SAFETY TALK LEAD BY: \_\_\_\_\_  
DEPARTMENT: \_\_\_\_\_

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

IMMUNIZATION IS MORE THAN JUST KEEPING CURRENT WITH COVID-19 AND INFLUENZA VACCINES. NAME 3 OTHER VACCINES THAT ARE IMPORTANT TO HEALTHCARE WORKERS.

WHO IS A HEALTHCARE WORKER?

WHERE CAN I GET MY IMMUNIZATIONS UPDATED?

EMPLOYEE CONCERNS & IDEAS FOR IMPROVEMENT:

EMPLOYEES PRESENT:

FOLLOW UP ON CONCERNS:

If you have any feedback on the Safety Talks program or a suggestion for a Safety Talk, please contact a member of the Wellness & Safety Team or email [healthpeihr@ihis.org](mailto:healthpeihr@ihis.org).

Safety Talks can be found on the Staff Resource Centre at: <https://src.healthpei.ca/safety-talks>