

Are Your Immunizations Up to Date? – A Public Health Issue

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“Public Health is the science and art of preventing disease, prolonging life and promoting health through organized efforts of society.”

John Last, *A Dictionary of Epidemiology*

Vaccination is the most effective, longest lasting method of preventing disease, nevertheless many children, adolescents and adults are not keeping their immunizations up to date. Also, many are not getting all available vaccines, leaving them unprotected and increasing the risk of spreading disease to others. According to a 2002 Health Canada survey, 98% of parents reported that their child had been immunized. However, almost half were not fully immunized up to the standards as recommended by the National Advisory Committee on Immunization, the body that advises the Public Health Agency of Canada.

Diseases like measles, rubella, polio and whooping cough haven't disappeared; they're only under control in Canada because we immunize. If we stop immunizing, these diseases will reappear and cause severe illness, disability and even death. Other diseases caused by bacteria that are all around us—such as tetanus, meningitis and diphtheria—are effectively prevented by using vaccines.

Immunization protects our families, neighborhoods, workplaces and global populations.

Support immunization programs!

What can we do?

- Encourage governments to invest in prevention of disease
- Ask your doctor, public health office or pharmacist about the many vaccines for all ages.
- Make sure you and your family members' immunizations are up-to-date—you may need a booster to ensure full protection.
- For more information go to www.immunize.cpha.ca

Did you know?

Public health keeps you healthy and safe: at home, work, school and play—everywhere in the community?

The public health system works behind the scenes to provide:

- safe food and water,
- safe places to live and work,
- healthy choices to stay well and free from injury,
- information about infectious and chronic diseases and how to prevent them, and
- good health for all Canadians.

S U P P O R T P U B L I C H E A L T H !

This message brought to you by the Canadian Coalition for Public Health in the 21st Century (CCPH21)
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Canadian Coalition for Public Health in the 21st Century – Membership (April 2009)
Coalition canadienne pour la santé publique au 21^e siècle – organisations membres (avril 2009)

Association of Canadian Academic HealthCare Organizations	L'Alliance canadienne de la maladie mentale et de la santé mentale
Canadian Alliance on Mental Illness and Mental Health	L'Alliance pour la prévention des maladies chroniques du Canada
Canadian Association of Occupational Therapists	L'Ambulance SaintJean
Canadian Association of Speech-Language Pathologists and Audiologists	L'Association canadienne de physiothérapie
Canadian Association for School Health	L'Association canadienne de santé dentaire publique
Canadian Association of Public Health Dentistry	L'Association canadienne de santé publique
Canadian Chiropractic Association	L'Association canadienne des ergothérapeutes
Canadian Dental Association	L'Association canadienne des hygiénistes dentaires
Canadian Coalition for Immunization Awareness & Promotion	L'Association canadienne des institutions de santé universitaires
Canadian Dental Hygienists Association	L'Association canadienne des soins de santé
Canadian Diabetes Association	L'Association canadienne des médecins vétérinaires
Canadian Healthcare Association	L'Association canadienne du diabète
Canadian Institutes of Health Research, Institute of Population and Public Health	L'Association canadienne pour la santé en milieu scolaire
Canadian Medical Association	L'Association chiropratique canadienne
Canadian Nurses Association	L'Association dentaire canadienne
Canadian Paediatric Society	L'Association des infirmières et infirmiers du Canada
Canadian Pharmacists Association	L'Association des pharmaciens du Canada
Canadian Physiotherapy Association	L'Association médicale canadienne
Canadian Psychological Association	L'Association pour la prévention des infections à l'hôpital et dans la communauté
Canadian Public Health Association	L'Association pulmonaire
Canadian Society for International Health	La Coalition canadienne pour la sensibilisation et la promotion de la vaccination
Canadian Society for Medical Laboratory Science	The Dalla Lana School of Public Health, l'Université de Toronto
Canadian Veterinary Medical Association	Les diététistes du Canada
Chronic Disease Prevention Alliance of Canada	La faculté de Santé, l'Université de York
The College of Family Physicians of Canada	L'Institut de recherche Élisabeth-Bruyère
Community & Hospital Infection Control Association Canada	Les Instituts de recherche en santé du Canada, l'Institut de la santé publique et des populations
The Dalla Lana School of Public Health, University of Toronto	Médecins pour un Canada sans fumée
Dietitians of Canada	SécuriJeunes Canada
Élisabeth-Bruyère Research Institute	La Société canadienne de pédiatrie
Faculty of Health, York University	La Société canadienne de psychologie
National Specialty Society for Community Medicine	La Société canadienne de santé internationale
St. John Ambulance	La Société canadienne de science de laboratoire médical
Physicians for a SmokeFree Canada	La Société nationale de spécialistes pour la médecine communautaire
Safe Kids Canada	
The Lung Association	