

**Date:** April 24, 2020

**RE:** Public Messaging Regarding Immunization Program Changes Related to COVID-19

---

- These are extraordinary times, and we are simply unable to provide health care the way we usually do.
- To slow down the spread of COVID-19, and to ensure health resources are available to support the urgent needs of all Albertans, all non-essential services are being cancelled.
- However, there are essential services that must continue in order to protect our population.
- Public Health routine immunization programs have been reviewed to prioritize essential services.
  - Infant immunizations – at 2, 4, 6 and 12 months of age will continue to be offered at all Alberta Health Services (AHS) public health clinics, with a shorter appointment time. These fast flow clinics will include immunization, infant height and weight, post-partum depression screen and review of parental concerns.
  - 18 month and pre-school immunizations – will continue with shorter appointment times and fewer appointments available. These fast flow clinics will include immunization, height and weight and review of parental concerns.
  - School immunizations – immunization series commenced in the 2019-2020 school year, which include delayed immunizations for all grades and immunization of grade 6 and 9 students, are currently suspended because of school closures.
  - Routine adult immunizations – will be suspended for up to 3 months.
- At this time, we do not know when full services will resume as the COVID-19 response is an evolving situation.
- Once routine levels of service are re-established Public Health will develop plans to catch up any immunization services that were delayed or suspended.
- Programs and services provided by Public Health will follow physical/social distancing principles.
- Virtual methods of program delivery will be explored, where appropriate, to reduce the risk of transmission (e.g., phone assessment, Skype opportunities).
- Public Health staff will continue to pre-screen clients over the telephone who may require services.
- We greatly appreciate the understanding of our clients as we continue to triage staff and resources to respond to the most urgent and critical needs.