

ST. LEONARD'S COMMUNITY SERVICES

Function: Human Resources
Policy: Appendix 5 – Immunization Waiver
CMHO Standard(s):
Approved: January 2009

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Appendix 5 IMMUNIZATION WAIVER

Suggested Immunizations

Given the nature of our services, there is a potential risk for staff and residents to be exposed to various infectious diseases. The Medical Officer of Health has suggested five vaccines in addition to the required immunizations for staff working in direct client service positions. The Medical Officer of Health has suggested staff receive a Hepatitis B vaccination, Pertussis vaccination, an annual Influenza vaccination, Chickenpox vaccination (strongly suggested for women of childbearing age who have not had chickenpox) and a 2 Step TB Skin test.

- Hepatitis B - Is the most prevalent hepatitis strain in the world. Individuals with acute Hepatitis B or who are carriers can spread the virus through blood or other body fluids. Some people with Hepatitis B do not feel sick, but they can still pass the disease to other people. In other cases, Hepatitis B can make people very sick; it can cause serious damage to the liver and chronic liver disease. There is no cure for Hepatitis B.

The best way to protect yourself from Hepatitis B is receiving the vaccination. The vaccination is given in three doses 0, 1 and 6 months. A positive skin test, after the three doses, is required to determine that the vaccination was effective.

- Pertussis (whooping cough) - Is a highly contagious infectious disease caused by Bordetella pertussis. Pertussis is spread through the air or by touch. Individuals with Pertussis can spread the germs from the time they have the first symptoms until three weeks after the coughing attacks start.

Pertussis can be prevented or be less severe with immunization.

- Influenza - Is a viral infection that causes respiratory symptoms. The influenza virus spreads easily from the infected person through coughing and sneezing. It is also spread through direct contact with contaminated surfaces or objects like unwashed hands, toys and eating utensils.

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Effective ways to protect yourself from contracting the influenza virus is by getting the annual flu shot, washing hands frequently and staying home when you are sick. Persons who receive the vaccine can still get the flu if they are exposed to the virus; but it is usually milder than it would have been without the shot. The viruses that cause the flu change often; therefore, the vaccine is needed each year to be effective in preventing the circulating strain.

- Chickenpox - Is caused by the varicella-zoster virus. Chickenpox is most common in children and usually mild, but when adults get it, they can become very sick. Most adults who have had chickenpox will not get it again. Chickenpox spreads very easily through the air or by touching the fluid in a chickenpox blister. The development of the virus is usually 14-16 days, but may be anywhere from 10-21 days after contact with an infected person. Chickenpox is infectious 1-2 days before the rash appears and for at least 5 days after the rash appears.

A vaccine is now available to prevent chickenpox.

- Tuberculosis (TB) - Is a disease caused by the mycobacterium tuberculosis germ. The germ goes to the lung first but can also go to many other parts of the body. TB disease in the lung (pulmonary TB) can spread to other people. When a person with TB in the lungs coughs, sneezes or sings the germs are forced into the air. You can get TB by being near a person for long periods of time if you breathe in the germs.

A mantoux skin test tells you if the TB germ is in your body. A small amount of fluid is put under the skin of your forearm. After two to three days, a nurse or doctor will look at your arm. If a bump is present, it is measured in millimetres. If the skin test is positive, you will be asked to see a doctor to see if the TB disease is present.

Staff Name: _____

Department: _____

I have read and understand the suggested immunizations and the risks associated with not receiving the Immunizations suggested by the Medical Officer of Health.

Staff Signature

Date