



Public Health Update – September

Stop Smoking Workshop Referrals

- Stop smoking workshops will be held at Elgin St. Thomas Public Health (ESTPH). Workshops last 1.5 hours and participants receive 5 weeks of free nicotine replacement therapy (e.g., patches, gum, lozenges).
- Health Care Providers can fax a completed [referral form](#) to ESTPH.
- ESTPH will follow-up with the referred patient to register them for the workshop.

Hepatitis B – When should you test and not test for immunity

When not to do Serologic Testing

- **not** recommended for immunocompetent people after years after immunization because immunity is long lasting, even if antibody levels are undetectable.
- **not** routinely recommended for Grade 7 or 8 students in Ontario
- **not** recommended for workers with prior evidence of anti-HBs of at least 10 IU/L

Serologic Testing is recommended in Specific Groups

Recommended **within 1 to 6 months of completion of the vaccine series** for **HIGH RISK GROUPS:**

- Workers at increased risk of infection from occupational exposure to blood, blood products and bodily fluids that may contain HB virus
- Infants born to infected mothers should be tested after completion of vaccine series
- Immunocompromised persons should have periodic monitoring depending on risk and severity of immunocompromised state
- persons with chronic renal disease or on dialysis should be tested annually
- pregnant women at high risk of hepatitis B who are immunized before or during pregnancy
- potential percutaneous or mucosal exposure, e.g., men who have sex with men and injection drug users
- sexual partners and household contacts of acute cases and chronic carriers of HB

What to do if the Hepatitis B Titres ≤ 10 IU /L.

Workers at increased risk of infection through occupational exposure to blood, blood products and bodily fluids that may contain HB virus with titres ≤ 10 IU/L:

- if tested > 6 months after the initial series was completed & the anti-HBs titre is less than 10 IU/ L. give 1 booster dose of HB vaccine and complete serology 1 month later to confirm titre level

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- if level remains less than 10 IU/L., then a second HB vaccine series is indicated followed by anti-HBs serology within 1 to 6 months after completion of the second series if serologic testing was completed within the 1 to 6-month parameter after a HB series and the titre level is documented as ≥ 10 IU/L. at that time then a booster is NOT REQUIRED even if titres are now registering below 10 IU/L. Therefore, serologic testing is ***not recommended*** for healthy individuals who have documented evidence of an adequate previous immune response
- those with documented evidence of failure to respond after completing 2 series of HB vaccine are unlikely to benefit from further immunization and would require passive immunization (immune globulin) after a potential HB exposure (see Canadian Immunization Guide-Passive Immunization)

*NOTE-vaccines for above listed high-risk categories and situations may not be publicly funded



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