

1. Introduction to the Nunavut Immunization Manual

Purpose

The purpose of the Nunavut Immunization Manual is to provide guidance and support for the immunization program in Nunavut. Immunization programs are developed through a specialized body of knowledge, with the intention of protecting both individuals and populations from vaccine preventable diseases. It is a core function of public health in communities. As noted in “Developing Healthy Communities – A Public Health Strategy for Nunavut”, the immunization program is a building block in the foundation of public health in Nunavut.

The Immunization Program in Nunavut has been developed as per the guidelines outlined by the Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC) and the National Advisory Committee on Immunization (NACI). A key resource for this manual and essential resource for all professionals providing immunization programs in Nunavut is the Canadian Immunization Guide (CIG). The Nunavut Immunization Manual is designed as a quick reference for immunization providers and includes policies, programs, schedules and protocols specific to Nunavut. It does not replace the CIG, and as such, all health centers are required to have the CIG available for reference. It is also available online at: <http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/publicat/cig-qci/>

The development of immunization programs is evidence based, and as such, immunization programs are dynamic and change as new research and recommendations arise from experts in the field of immunology in Canada. This manual is designed in a way that as guidelines and policies evolve, sections can be updated to reflect these changes. It is the responsibility of immunization providers in each health care setting to replace old sections of this manual as the updated sections are distributed through the office of the Chief Medical Officer of Health (CMOH) for Nunavut.