



News Release

Calling All Canadians

Let's talk about community immunity and important immunization topics

April 20, 2016 (OTTAWA) – During National Immunization Awareness Week (NIAW), Immunize Canada reminds Canadians that immunizations are safe, effective, and keep communities healthy by preventing the spread of disease. Community immunity helps protect individuals that are particularly vulnerable to diseases and their complications, such as infants too young to be fully immunized and the elderly who are at risk of serious illness.

In support of this national awareness campaign, Immunize Canada calls upon all Canadians to participate in an 'Ask the Experts' event on Monday, April 25th at 10:30 a.m. (EDT) at the Delta Hotel in downtown Ottawa in Ballroom C. Or, please join us online via Livestream and submit your question via Twitter to @immunizedotca.

Renowned Canadian experts Dr. Noni MacDonald from Dalhousie University, Dr. Nicole Le Saux from the Children's Hospital of Eastern Ontario (CHEO), Dr. Allison McGeer from Mount Sinai Hospital, and Dr. Ian Gemmill, Medical Officer of Health for Kingston, Frontenac and Lennox & Addington (KFL&A) will be on hand to answer your immunization questions.

To register for the event, please visit <http://immunize.ca/en/events/niaw/panel.aspx>.

Quick Facts

- National Immunization Awareness Week (NIAW) takes place April 23 to 30, 2016.
- Immunize Canada is a national coalition with the overall aim of increasing awareness about the benefits of immunization and promoting the understanding and use of vaccines as recommended by the National Advisory Committee on Immunization (NACI).
- Community immunity occurs when most people within a community have received a vaccine; reducing the spread of disease. Community immunity protects the small number of people who cannot be immunized for medical reasons.
- Immunize Canada is a partner in the ImmunizeCA app, a free mobile application, that provides:
 - 24/7 access to vaccination schedules
 - access to reliable, expert-approved, bilingual information about vaccinations for children, adults and travelers
 - free downloads at the App Store, Google Play and Blackberry World

Quotes

"Immunization is recognized as the most cost-effective public health approach to decreasing vaccine-preventable diseases in the Canadian population. For example, through publicly funded programs, child

immunization against debilitating diseases -- such as meningitis, invasive pneumococcal disease, measles, and polio, amongst others -- is made possible. These programs promote healthy children and healthy communities.”

*Dr. Shelly A. McNeil MD FRCPC
Chair, Immunize Canada*

“In our busy connected world none of us is isolated, and the best way to protect yourself and the people around you is to get immunized.”

*Dr. Susan Bowles BSc PharmD MSc
Past Chair, Immunize Canada*

“Immunization is a safe and effective way of protecting yourself and those you love from preventable diseases. Some people cannot be immunized for a variety of legitimate health reasons, such as young infants and others with certain health conditions, and the only way we can help protect them is by ensuring that everyone else’s immunizations are up to date.”

*Ian Culbert
Executive Director
Canadian Public Health Association*

Associated Links

Immunize Canada (immunize.ca)
Canadian Public Health Association (cpha.ca)
Public Health Agency of Canada (<http://healthycanadians.gc.ca/healthy-living-vie-saine/immunization-immunisation/index-eng.php>)
ImmunizeCA app (immunize.ca/app)
[@Immunizedotca](https://twitter.com/Immunizedotca)

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