To: Mayor and Members
   Board of Health

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Re: Immunization Record Information System - (IRIS) BOH07003 (City Wide)

**Council Direction:**
Not applicable

**Information:**
Under the direction of the Ontario Ministry of Health and Long Term Care (MOHLTC), health departments are mandated to maintain accurate immunization records of all children enrolled in licensed day care centres and schools. The Immunization Record Information System (IRIS) is a database that captures this immunization information. Its purpose is to capture the complete immunization records for all children attending licensed child care centres, as per the Day Nurseries Act, and all students attending elementary and secondary schools, as per the Immunization of School Pupils Act.

The 5.4 FTE IRIS staff receive immunization information from parents and physicians and input the information into the IRIS database. The information is then reviewed according to the databases’ programming to determine which children are up to date with their immunizations. Historically, IRIS programs in large urban cities within Ontario were unable to meet the MOHLTC mandate to screen the immunization records of all students attending school every year due to the large volume of students. Vaccine preventable diseases with the exception of pertussis are relatively rare in Canada. The City of Hamilton’s IRIS program has a workplan to meet the Ministry’s requirement by the school year 2008-2009.

In 2005 the MOHLTC launched the integrated Public Health Information System, (iPHIS) a web based data base for case management and reporting of all Reportable Diseases to the MOHLTC. The City of Hamilton receives reports of approximately 3000 reportable events annually. Approximately 2400 reports are for reportable diseases and the remainder are for individuals on medical surveillance for tuberculosis and vaccine
adverse event reporting. Currently, data entry is completed by 2 iPHIS Administrators and also by Public Health Nurses or Public Health Inspectors.

In order to improve efficiency and allow surge capacity to respond to the fluctuations in numbers of reportable diseases over the year, the IRIS clerks will be cross-trained to enter iPHIS data. This will enable Hamilton PHS to report communicable disease data to the province in a more timely way and move us closer to meeting the requirement under the Health Protection and Promotion Act to report within 24 hours. This change will also improve quality assurance. The impact of this change is that immunization review of all grades may be somewhat delayed, and not fully implemented by 2008-2009 as had been planned.

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