



For Immediate Release

NEWS RELEASE

POLL SHOWS CANADIANS NEED TO KNOW MORE ABOUT IMMUNIZATION: Under-immunized adults at risk of contracting diseases and infecting others

April 19, 2007 (OTTAWA, ON) – According to a recent survey commissioned by the Canadian Coalition for Immunization Awareness & Promotion (CCIAP), fewer than half of adult Canadians are up to date with their immunizations and six in ten adult Canadians feel they need to know more about the vaccines recommended for adults.

The CCIAP conducted an omnibus survey for National Immunization Awareness Week and alarming results show that Canadians need to do a better job keeping themselves informed and up to date with their immunization.

“Immunization is important throughout our lives,” notes Dr. David Allison, Co-Chair of the CCIAP. “While most immunization occurs in childhood, it’s important to stay up to date with boosters and recommended vaccines at all stages in life.”

“Under-immunized adults are at risk of contracting diseases and also infecting others,” adds Dr. Ian Gemmill, Co-Chair of the CCIAP. For example, a recent study published in *Pediatric Infectious Disease* journal reported that 55% of infants caught pertussis or whooping cough from parents, 16% from siblings, 10% from aunts and uncles, 10% from friends and cousins, 6% from grandparents, and 2% from part-time caregivers.

Canadians are urged to talk to their doctor, nurse or local public health office about their immunization status, and to keep a personal record so they know what vaccines they’ve had. CCIAP has launched the first Canadian adult immunization record card entitled, “Adult Immunization: Are you Up To Date,” which will be made available at www.immunize.cpha.ca.

The survey results demonstrate that adult Canadians are not keeping track of their immunization records and know little about the vaccines they need:

- Six in ten of those surveyed do not feel knowledgeable about the vaccinations recommended for adults
- 57% of respondents have gone 5 years or longer without reviewing their immunization records with their healthcare professional, while more than 1/3 of those surveyed have gone 10 years or longer
- 27% of the sample don’t even know whether or not they are up to date with their vaccines
- A large majority (64%) of respondents do not keep a record of the vaccinations they’ve received

Canadian Coalition for
Immunization Awareness & Promotion
www.influenza.cpha.ca



- 2 -

These are the findings of an Ipsos Reid/CCIAP online survey conducted March 26-29, 2007. A representative sample of 1038 Canadians 18 years or older was surveyed. With a sample of this size, the results are considered accurate to within +/- 3.1%, 95% of the time.

The Canadian Coalition for Immunization Awareness & Promotion is a coalition of 27 national organizations. Its mission is to contribute to the control/elimination/eradication of vaccine preventable diseases in Canada by increasing awareness of the benefits and risks of immunization for all ages via education, promotion, advocacy and media relations.

National Immunization Awareness Week reminds us of the importance of immunization to preserve the good health of our children, families and communities. Look for special events in your area, organized by your local public health office, clinic, hospital, pharmacy or workplace. Immunization experts will be available in all parts of Canada to comment on our most effective tool to prevent disease – vaccines! For more information about National Immunization Awareness Week and to download a record to keep track of your immunization, please visit www.immunize.cpha.ca.

National Immunization Awareness Week in Canada coincides with Vaccination Week in the Americas organized by the Pan American Health Organization. For further information, visit www.paho.org.

-30-

For more information, please contact your local public health office or call:

Mary Appleton
Sr. Manager, Canadian Coalition for Immunization Awareness & Promotion
613-725-3769 ext. 139
immunize@cpha.ca
www.immunize.cpha.ca