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**DEC - 4 2007**

Ms. Linda Stewart  
Executive Director  
Association of Local Public Health Agencies  
425 University Avenue, Suite 502  
Toronto ON M5G 1T6

Dear Ms. Stewart:

Thank you for your letter to the Honourable George Smitherman, Minister of Health and Long-Term Care, dated October 31, 2007, regarding resolutions passed at the 2007 Annual General Meeting of the Association of Local Public Health Agencies (ALPHA).

I am responding with respect to resolution A07-5: Amendments to the Immunization of School Pupils Act (ISPA), asking for the inclusion of Pertussis as a Designated Disease under Regulation 645 of the ISPA, to increase health unit access to immunization histories (of pertussis), for epidemiological information.

The purpose of the ISPA is to increase the protection of the health of children against diseases designated in Regulation 645.

Pertussis is a reportable disease under the Health Protection and Promotion Act. In the past, it was not a designated vaccine under Regulation 645 of the ISPA because there was no pertussis vaccine licensed for use in children seven to 17 years of age. Adacel™ (combined tetanus, diphtheria, acellular pertussis (Tdap)) vaccine was introduced into Ontario's publicly funded immunization program, for adolescents 14 to 16 years of age, in September 2003. The Adacel™ vaccine was approved for use only for persons 11 to 55 years of age. In October 2006, Health Canada (the regulator) expanded this approval to allow the vaccine to be used for persons four to 64 years of age.

However, there is currently no monovalent acellular pertussis vaccine available in Canada. This could make it problematic to complete the immunization of those children who may be missing one or more doses of acellular pertussis, but who have up to date immunization against diphtheria, tetanus and polio.

I appreciate your bringing this resolution to our attention.

Sincerely,



Marie Muir  
A/Director, Infectious Diseases Branch

c. Dr. David Williams, Chief Medical Officer of Health (A)