

From: McMullen, Bethany S C HLTH:EX(Bethany.McMullen@gov.bc.ca)
To: HLTH Health Issues HLTH:EX (HealthIssues@gov.bc.ca)
To: Korchagina, Maryna HLTH:EX (Maryna.Korchagina@gov.bc.ca); Dunnett, Jennifer HLTH:EX (Jennifer.Dunnett@gov.bc.ca); Sagar, Brian HLTH:EX (Brian.Sagar@gov.bc.ca)
Subject: FW: Media Request - the Tyee - Ground Rounds re: COVID school closures
Sent: 01/23/2024 17:30:16
Attachments: RE: HLTH Media Request: School-based immunizations.msg

Hello all – see below, wanting to flag a public Grand Rounds that may generate some media attention. We have already received one MR related to it (attached for your information).

Background:

- [Protect our Province](#) has posted on social media about tomorrow's BCCDC Grand Rounds presentation: **Why BC schools should never close again**
- Grand Rounds is offered as an education session for healthcare and academic partners and is not open to the public. However, given the social media post, BCCDC expects members of the public to attend virtually. They may also capture video of the presentation and post it online, out of context
- Note Dr. Grant is presenting on work done outside of her role at BCCDC Public Health but within scope of work as a public health and infectious disease specialist



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9:09 PM · Jan 19, 2024 · 17.7K Views



23



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24



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18



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1.1K



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From: Byers, Lindsay HLTH:EX(Lindsay.Byers@gov.bc.ca)
May, Stephen GCPE:EX (Stephen.May@gov.bc.ca); Lizette Parsons Bell
To: (lizette@umbrellastrategies.ca); McMullen, Bethany S C HLTH:EX
(Bethany.McMullen@gov.bc.ca)
To: Watson, Andy GCPE:EX (Andy.Watson@gov.bc.ca); Crofts, Amy E GCPE:EX
(Amy.Crofts@gov.bc.ca); Ariyaratne, Anupama HLTH:EX (Anupama.Ariyaratne@gov.bc.ca)
Subject: RE: HLTH Media Request: School-based immunizations
Sent: 01/22/2024 23:55:51

Sharing with Bethany and her team.

Lindsay Byers | Sr. Director, Strategic Communications & Engagement

Communicable Disease Prevention & Control

Population & Public Health

Lindsay.Byers@gov.bc.ca

From: May, Stephen GCPE:EX <Stephen.May@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: Monday, January 22, 2024 2:52 PM
To: 'Lizette Parsons Bell' <lizette@umbrellastrategies.ca>; Byers, Lindsay HLTH:EX <Lindsay.Byers@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Watson, Andy GCPE:EX <Andy.Watson@gov.bc.ca>; Crofts, Amy E GCPE:EX <Amy.Crofts@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: FW: HLTH Media Request: School-based immunizations

We've received a request from CBC National on where BC is at for school-based vaccination programs – which is an opportunity to speak to the Provincial Immunization Registry and provide stats. Is this something your team can pull together by Wednesday? Thanks.

From: Stephen May <Stephen.May@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: Monday, January 22, 2024 2:40 PM
To: Watson, Andy GCPE:EX <Andy.Watson@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: HLTH Media Request: School-based immunizations

Reporter

Tashauna Reid, Reporter

CBC - National

Tashauna.Reid@cbc.ca

416-205-5719 c: 416-317-7829

Deadline Wednesday, January 24, 2024 4:00 PM

Request

I am working on a story about school immunizations for CBC's The National and The World at Six. In Ontario, quite a number of regions are dealing with outdated school vaccination records and are working to ensure students are up to date on their vaccines.

The COVID-19 pandemic disrupted a number of school based vaccination programs and I am reaching out to provinces and territories outside of Ontario to see how they are managing.

A couple of questions:

- 1) Is there an estimate of how many students are behind on their school vaccinations or not up to date?
- 2) What are the immunization coverage rates for students in BC?
- 3) Are students required to have immunizations to attend school? If so, what vaccines are required?

4) Are all student immunizations in BC carried out in schools?

Background

Recommendation

From: Watson, Breanna [BCCDC](breanna.watson@bccdc.ca)
To: Watson, Breanna [BCCDC] (breanna.watson@bccdc.ca)
Subject: [BCCDC Grand Rounds] Jan 23 12-1pm Reviewing risks and benefits □ why BC schools should never close again
Sent: 01/08/2024 17:47:56

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Please join us for a hybrid BCCDC Grand Rounds on **Tuesday, January 23 from 12:00 to 1:00pm PT** where Dr. Jennifer Grant will present *Reviewing risks and benefits → why BC schools should never close again*. This presentation will be held **in-person at BCCDC Lane Level Lecture Hall**. For those attending in person, please bring your own cup and enjoy a coffee or tea on us. Remote attendees can [click here](#) to watch the presentation live.

Reviewing risks and benefits → why BC schools should never close again

One of the developments during the COVID-19 pandemic was unprecedented and widespread school closures. Review of the literature shows that substantial and ongoing harms likely outweigh any epidemiologic benefits, especially to children with barriers to education. British Columbia was one of the first jurisdictions to recognize the unintended consequences of school closures. As the first province to re-open schools BC should be the first to commit to keeping schools open at all times to ensure best outcomes for children and communities in the short and long-term.

Dr. Jennifer Grant has practiced Microbiology and Infectious Diseases in Vancouver since 2007, representing both CHICA (now IPAC) and AMMI as a board member. She is now the program head for bacteriology and mycology at BCCDC with an interest in health systems, antimicrobial stewardship and quality of patient care. Away from medicine, Jennifer is mother to Sierra, Alexis and Océanne, and avid skier and mountain biker, making use of the coastal mountains whenever possible.

Learning objectives:

- Identify the role of the education system in social determinants of health
- Recognize characteristics of students who are at higher risk of adverse outcomes from school closures
- Evaluate the empiric evidence for harms and benefits of school closure

BCCDC Public Health Grand Rounds is a self-approved group learning activity as defined by the Maintenance of Certification program of the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada. Participants (MDs only) can earn MoC credits by notifying [Charmaine Wong](#) about their attendance providing their name, title, institution, email address & phone.

BCCDC Grand Rounds is an educational event and the intended audience is public health researchers and service providers across the province and outside BC. We ask that you only share this invitation with members of your professional network who will demonstrate respectful engagement.

Recordings of BCCDC Grand Rounds and Research Week sessions since October 2019 are available to view [here](#). To access the library of archived Grand Rounds and Research Week sessions prior to October 2019, visit the [PHSA Mediasite](#).

Thank you,
The Grand Rounds Committee