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From the Office of Dr. Ninh Tran, Medical Officer of Health, Southwestern Public Health

An Update on Pneumococcal Vaccine Changes

The Ministry of Health for Ontario has announced that the provincially funded pneumococcal vaccine program is changing. These changes will happen throughout the month of July. Ministry fact sheets and patient information sheets are now posted at www.swpublichealth.ca/pneumo2024.

- **Two NEW vaccines are being introduced: Pneu-C-15 and Pneu-C-20.**
- **The two OLD vaccines (Pneu-C-13 and Pneu-P-23) are being phased out.**

The schedule will remain the same as in the current Publicly Funded Immunization Schedule for Ontario.

Vaccine program	Eligible age group	Previous vaccine	Current vaccine
Routine	6 weeks to 4 years of age	Pneu-C-13	Pneu-C-15
Routine	≥65 years of age	Pneu-P-23	Pneu-C-20
High risk	≥6 weeks of age and older	Pneu-P-23 and Pneu-C-13	Pneu-C-20

The new vaccines provide better protection than the previous vaccines.

You can continue to use the vaccines you have in stock or delay vaccinating until you have the new vaccines in stock per your clinical judgement. Once SWPH has Pneu-C-15 and 20 in stock, our office will contact you to arrange a product exchange at your location.

More information regarding the transition will come over the coming weeks.

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