March 18, 2022

The COVID-19 pandemic disrupted many areas of health care, including routine immunization programs for children. As Island Health winds down operation of COVID-19 mass immunization clinics, our public health teams are turning their attention towards recovery, including helping families with young children get up-to-date on important routine immunizations.

B.C.’s routine immunization schedule includes a series of vaccinations at age 4, timed to coincide with entry to kindergarten. These vaccines provide important protection against illnesses like measles and tetanus. Island Health is scheduling extra clinics this spring specifically for young children to make it as easy as possible for parents and guardians to complete kindergarten vaccinations and get children up-to-date on their immunizations.

In the weeks ahead public health staff will be reaching out to families across Island Health to discuss the clinics and schedule appointments.

RESOURCES FOR FAMILIES:

[www.immunizebc.ca](http://www.immunizebc.ca): This site provides extensive information about BC’s routine vaccination schedule for infants, children, teens and adults. It also includes a comprehensive ‘Question and Answer’ section.

<https://www.islandhealth.ca/learn-about-health/immunizations/immunizations>: Learn about immunization programs in Island Health.