

Tuesday, December 9, 2008

For Immediate Release

## Are you fully protected against mumps?

*York Region offers mumps catch-up clinics to residents between the ages of 18 and 25*

**NEWMARKET** – An increasing number of mumps outbreaks have been occurring in parts of Canada during the past year. To help prevent similar outbreaks of this highly contagious disease in York Region, free catch-up immunization clinics are being offered to York Region residents between the ages of 18 and 25 years who have received only one dose of the mumps, measles and rubella (MMR) vaccine.

Two doses of MMR vaccine normally provide life-long immunity, however individuals born in Ontario between 1970 and 1991 probably received only one dose of MMR vaccine. During the measles campaign in 1996, the vaccine given only provided protection against measles.

The York Region Community and Health Services public health branch will provide the following free community catch-up clinics for those individuals who require a second dose of the MMR vaccine:

<b>Monday, December 15<sup>th</sup></b> 3 p.m. to 7 p.m. Kin Centre 3 Fairpark Lane, Sutton Town of Georgina	<b>Tuesday, December 16<sup>th</sup></b> 3 p.m. to 7 p.m. Newmarket Legion 707 Srigley Street Town of Newmarket	<b>Wednesday, December 17<sup>th</sup></b> 3 p.m. to 7 p.m. York Region South Services Centre, 2 <sup>nd</sup> Floor 50 High Tech Road Town of Richmond Hill
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Residents who cannot attend one of the community catch-up clinics can receive their second dose of the mumps vaccine by booking an appointment with their health care provider. Residents who are clients of York Region's sexual health clinics can also receive the vaccine during their scheduled clinic appointments. As part of the provincial campaign, York Region public health will also host on-campus catch-up clinics from January to March 2009 for students who attend a post-secondary school in York Region.

York Region residents born between 1970 and 1991 are encouraged to contact their health care provider to determine if their immunizations are up-to-date or they require an additional dose of the MMR vaccine.

Mumps is a viral infection that causes fever, headache and painful swelling of one or more of the salivary gland at the angle of the jaw. Sometimes mumps can be serious and cause swelling of the brain (encephalitis or meningitis). It can also cause temporary or permanent deafness and swelling of the testes or ovaries which, although very rare, can result in infertility.

Mumps is spread by close or direct contact with the saliva or respiratory secretions of people with mumps (coughing, sneezing, kissing, sharing drinks and utensils, cigarettes). People infected with the mumps virus should not attend day care, school or work and should not participate in group activities for at least 10 days after the onset of symptoms.

For more information on mumps and how to access the MMR vaccine, call York Region *Health Connection* at 1-800-361-5653. For more information on The Regional Municipality of York, please visit [www.york.ca](http://www.york.ca)

- 30 -

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