

April 4th, 2019

Minister Lisa Thompson
Ministry of Education
315 Front Street West, 14th Floor
Toronto ON M7A 0B8

Dear Minister Thompson,

Re: Request to ensure children admitted to all public and private schools produce records of vaccination that align with the provincial and territorial immunization schedules

Infection Prevention and Control Canada's (IPAC Canada) Board of Directors adopted an emergency resolution that requests all provincial Ministers of Health and Ministers of Education to work collaboratively to ensure school-aged children have records of vaccination. Our campaign, #StartWithVaccines, will encourage all Canadians to get vaccinated and for public and private school to require mandatory proof of vaccinations.

The recent outbreak of measles in Western Canada is a reminder that technically eliminated diseases remain a serious threat if not actively prevented through vaccines. Centralized mandatory vaccine reporting supports local, regional and national infection prevention and control and public health professionals in managing outbreaks and developing policies and procedures for public safety.

IPAC Canada is taking action now due to the heightened rhetoric surrounding the safety and need for vaccinations of Canadian adults and children. This environment, in particular, puts school-aged children at risk of contracting dangerous and preventable diseases.

Infection Prevention and Control Canada (IPAC Canada) is a national, multi-disciplinary, voluntary professional association uniting those with an interest in infection prevention and control in Canada. IPAC Canada has over 1500 members in 20 chapters across the country. All our members and partners are dedicated to the health of Canadians by promoting excellence in the practice of infection prevention and control.

Canadians have successfully reduced preventable infectious diseases in the general population with strong vaccination practices over the past several decades. Lower rates of vaccination may lead to re-emergence and propagation of serious infectious diseases. We hope to have your support protecting Canadians during our #StartWithVaccines campaign.

For more information, please contact Gerry Hansen, Executive Director IPAC Canada by phone at (204) 897-5990 or email at executivedirector@ipac-canada.org.

Sincerely,

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Molly Blake RN BN MHS CIC
President, IPAC Canada