Immunization using a Comprehensive School Health Approach

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Thompson Cariboo Shuswap

Okanagan

Kootenay Boundary

East Kootenay
School Districts within IH

- 16 Public School Districts
- 2 Catholic School Divisions
- First Nation Schools
- Independent Schools
Healthier Schools Healthier Students (HSHS) Project

Exploring approaches to improve the effectiveness and coordination of Interior Health work with schools and school districts.
Why did we do the project?

- Enhance the focus and impact of IH activities in schools across the regions
- Coordinate our approach to communication and services
- Provide role clarity of IH Staff
HSHS Activities

• Support district level Health Promoting School Coordinators in 12 school districts and 1 grouping of 3 First Nation Schools

• Develop communication plans:
  - Internal communication plan
  - District-level communication with Superintendents and administrators
HSHS Activities

• Support PHNs in their understanding of CSH and their work with schools
• Enhance and standardize PHN services to schools through School Health Clinical Practice Standards (6 in place)
School Immunizations using a CSH Approach

How has the Healthier Schools Healthier Students project enhanced the immunization program in the schools?

→ District level
→ School level
The HSHS Project has:

• Strengthened relationships
• Enhanced communication
• Helped to define PHN role in schools
• Build knowledge and understanding of the CSH approach
District Level: Activities

Partnerships and Services

Support for immunization activities:

• Created contact list of all public, independent and First Nations Schools
• Established IH key contacts for district level staff
• Annual meetings with Superintendents
• Provide Superintendent’s Letter from Medical Health Officers
District Level: Successes

Partnerships and Services

Support for immunization activities:

✓ Increased support & engagement
✓ Distribution of health authority information to school staff
✓ Assisting with challenges i.e. class lists, recent job action
✓ Assisting with planning: i.e. HPV catch-up: centralized class lists, demographics for mail-outs
District Level: Activities

Healthy School Policy
• Encouraging the development of School Health Policy (inclusive of immunizations)

Teaching and Learning
• Newsletter immunization articles in Monthly School Newsletter: Stan and Fran
• Coordinated distribution of teaching materials/posters for school and communities

Social and Physical Environment
• Creating awareness of program requirements for immunizations i.e. class lists, physical space, volunteers
District Level: Successes

Healthy School Policy
• Partnering in developing Health Policies

Teaching and Learning
• Broad support for distribution of immunization materials/posters within schools

Social and Physical Environment
• District level electronic class lists (SD 73)
• Assistance with school level challenges
School Level: Activities

Partnerships and Services
PHNs deliver services as outlined in School Health Clinical Practice Standards

- focus on building relationships
- facilitate planning for service delivery: meet with school principal at the beginning of the school year
- determine process for class lists, space etc.
- year end review and evaluation of services: meeting with school principal
School Level: Activities

Partnerships and Services

• Build understanding of the CSH approach: webinars on IH Website
• Support innovation: TCS Immunization Consent Committee 2007
School Level: Successes

Partnerships and Services

• Increase in PHN participation in school level HPS activities
• Smooth delivery of immunization programs
School Level: Activities

Healthy School Policy

Promoting a common understanding of how immunizations contribute to overall health of staff, students and parents.
School Level: Activities

Teaching and Learning
• Provision of immunization resources/information
• Providing newsletter inserts

Social and Physical Environment
• Engaging PAC volunteers and Peer Leadership students
School Level: Successes

Teaching and Learning
• Regular requests for newsletter information
• Promotion on School Websites
• Incorporating into curriculum through Peer Leadership projects

Social and Physical Environment
• PAC volunteers and Peer Leadership students to assist the nurses during immunization
Future Plans

- Explore how to engage and build capacity of HPS coordinators to promote and support immunizations
- Support PHNS as they work within Clinical Practice Standards
- Support PHNS in their understanding of CSH and how to apply to immunizations
More Information:

Interior Health Website
http://www.interiorhealth.ca/school_health.aspx

Select Healthier Schools Project

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Conversation Café

• How do you see immunizations programs fitting into Comprehensive School Health?

• How do Health Authority staff build partnerships with school districts and schools?

• What successes can we celebrate right now? What is working in your health authority that promotes immunization and comprehensive school health?