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Information Previously Distributed To Be Listed on Community Services Committee Agenda	6 June 96
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DATE 7 May 1996

TO/DEST. Chair and Members of Regional Council

FROM/EXP. Acting Medical Officer of Health

SUBJECT/OBJET **MEASLES IMMUNIZATION CONSENT FORM**

BACKGROUND

The Health Department is on schedule to complete its measles immunization campaign by the end of the school year. Table I shows 94% of students has received their second dose or have a valid exemption. These rates do not include children who have previously received two doses of vaccine. Once they are included, final immunization rates will be higher. These rates compare very favourably with rates achieved across the province.

TABLE I

**Immunization Rates in first two Regions
for Measles Immunization Campaign 1996**

	Region 1 Cumberland, Orléans, Blackburn Hamlet, Pineview, Beacon Hill and Carson Grove	Region 2 Vanier, Ottawa East, Alta Vista and South Ottawa -Carleton	Total
Total to be immunized	29,652	35,377	65,029
Total immunized in schools and pickup clinics	27,214 (91.8%)	33,019 (93.3%)	60,233 (92.6%)
Number receiving exemption			857 (1.38%)
Total immunization or having exemption			61,088 (93.9%)

The Ministry of Health immunization consent form required for the measles campaign has caused some frustration for many parents and for Health Department staff. Department staff are working with schools to minimize situations where a child can not be immunized at school due to an incomplete form. School staff across the region have been very helpful and supportive of the program. The high levels of immunization we are achieving demonstrate the success of this approach.

The Ministry of Health Communications Department has also been made aware of the difficulties with the form to ensure that subsequent forms, centrally produced, will have the appropriate content and structure. This should avoid problems in the future with other vaccine programs.

PUBLIC CONSULTATION

No consultation was required for this information memo.

CONCLUSION

The Health Department will continue to work closely with schools and parents to minimize the inconvenience and maximize the impact of this highly effective and successful measles immunization campaign.

Approved by

*Dr. Geoff Dunkley
Acting Medical Officer of Health*