

# Communicable Disease – Vaccine Preventable Disease (VPD)

## Why Is This Important?

Vaccine preventable diseases (VPDs) are caused by organisms, spread through a variety of ways, for which there are effective vaccines, readily available and routinely used. Vaccines protect immunized individuals and also communities when populations have high rates of immunization. Due in large part to the successful use and efficacy of childhood immunizations, most VPDs are rare in the province of Saskatchewan.

**Influenza** causes significant morbidity and mortality in the Canadian population. Vaccination provides the best protection. **Pneumococcal invasive disease** usually requires one life-time vaccine and is offered without charge to eligible persons with underlying medical conditions and to adults 65 years and older. **Pertussis**, or whooping cough, is a respiratory disease that can cause serious illness in infants; a booster is required after completing the early childhood immunization series. Vaccination against the most common **meningococcal disease** strains, **hepatitis B**, and **measles** are part of routine childhood vaccination.

## What Is Being Done?

[Immunization in Saskatoon Health Region](#)

[2015 Disease Control Activities](#)

## To Learn More:

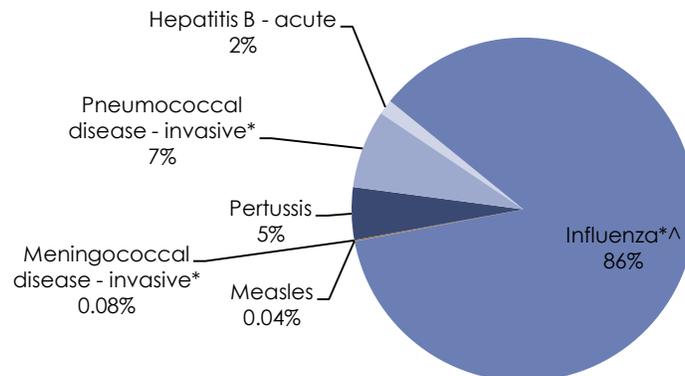
Chief Medical Health Officer's [Call to Action](#)

## Highlights

### Influenza, pneumococcal invasive disease and pertussis are the Region's most common vaccine preventable diseases.

- In the past five years, 2391 cases of vaccine preventable disease (VPD) were reported in our Region (not shown).
- A total of 2060 cases of influenza were reported, which represents 86% of total VPDs over five years. Approximately 20% of patients were hospitalized in 2015. See [Influenza](#).
- Other VPD, such as diphtheria, haemophilus influenza type B, mumps, polio, rubella, and tetanus have not been reported in the Region for more than 10 years, because immunization rates are high. See [Immunization](#).
- Pertussis is cyclical in Canada, with increases reported approximately every three to five years, largely due to the variable duration of immunity. In 2015 an outbreak was declared in our Region. See [Pertussis Outbreak 2015](#).
- Less than five cases of measles and meningococcal invasive disease were reported over the past five years. Thirty-four cases of acute hepatitis B were reported during this period. In addition to 24 acute cases of hepatitis B, a total of 157 newly reported cases of chronic hepatitis B were reported in this same period.
- For the five year trend of all VPD see [Reportable Disease Appendix](#).

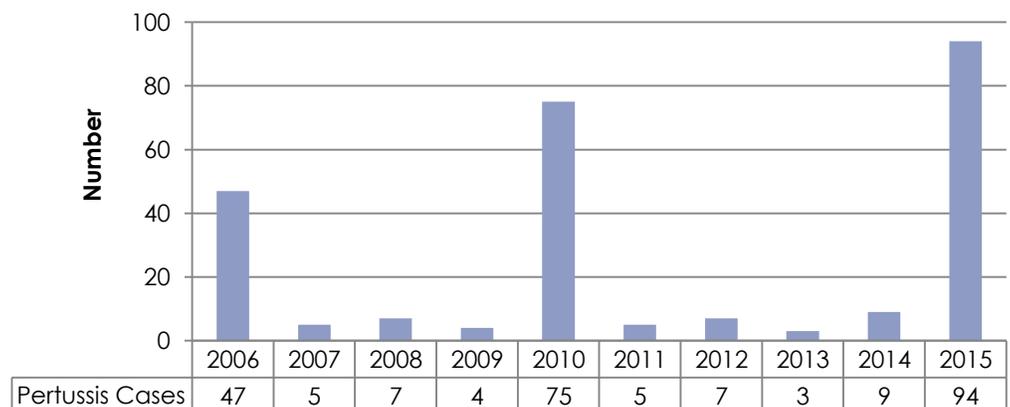
**Figure 1: Vaccine Preventable Disease, Saskatoon Health Region, 2011 to 2015**



Source: iPHIS

\*not all sub-types re protected against in current vaccines  
^Influenza season from September to August

**Figure 2: Pertussis Cases by Year, Saskatoon Health Region, 2006 to 2015**



Source: iPHIS