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Dear Cochlear Implant Candidate:

Health Canada has issued an advisory regarding a possible connection between cochlear implants and bacterial meningitis. Although the risk of contracting meningitis in this way is **very low**, Health Canada and Alberta Health Services recommend that all cochlear implant candidates ensure their immunizations are up-to-date and that they be immunized against bacterial meningitis prior to receiving the implant.

All implant candidates should receive a pneumococcal vaccine. There are two types of pneumococcal vaccines available. Please consult your Public Health Centre as to what vaccine(s) you or your child should receive.

All implant candidates less than five years of age should also be immunized against Haemophilus influenza b. This vaccine is already part of the routine childhood vaccination program.

A meningococcal vaccine should also be given to the implant candidates if they have not already received it. Your local Public Health Centre can provide you with information on the status of your or your child's immunizations and what, if any, further immunization are recommended.

Remember the risk of contracting meningitis in this way is very slight and vaccination further reduces the risk. If you require more information, please contact your audiologist.

Kind Regards,

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