

Program/Service Information Report Immunization Coverage in Schools and Licensed Childcare Settings

To: Board of Health

Meeting Date: September 3, 2025

Report No.: **BH.01.SEP0325.C10**

Key Points

- Vaccination is a critical strategy for reducing vaccine-preventable diseases and outbreaks.
- Under the Immunization of School Pupils Act (ISPA) and the Immunization for Children in Schools and Licensed Child Care Protocol (2018), Wellington Dufferin Guelph Public Health (WDGPH) is responsible for assessing, maintaining, and reporting immunization records of children in schools and licensed childcare settings.
- As part of the school-based immunization program WDGPH offers free Human papilloma virus (HPV), Hepatitis B (HEP B), and Meningococcal (MCV4) vaccines to all Grade 7 students in public, catholic, and private schools.
- Clinics are also provided in all high schools for students eligible for any publicly funded vaccines.

Program Requirements

Compliance with OPHS and Accountability Indicators:

☒ In compliance

☐ Not in compliance. If not in compliance, provide additional information about the variance and how it will be addressed.

Highlights

Vaccination programs are key public health components to decrease the spread of vaccine preventable diseases and related outbreaks. The ISPA and the Immunization for Children in Schools and Licensed Child Care Protocol require public health units to assess, maintain, and report vaccine coverage for children in schools and licensed childcare centres.^{1,2} WDGPH relies on parents and health care providers to report vaccinations. Reporting mechanisms include email, phone, fax, in-person and online through Immunization Connect Ontario (ICON). Incomplete data may reflect either missing immunization or unreported vaccine doses.

In the 2024/2025 school year, WDGPH assessed immunization records for all children in schools and licensed childcare. Immunization notices were issued to all parents, guardians, and students indicating what vaccine information was missing for all publicly funded vaccines. In the 2024/2025 school year 23% of school age students had incomplete immunization records and 11, 403 immunization notices were sent to parents/guardians/students. In the 2024/2025 school year 39% of children in licensed childcare centres had incomplete immunization records and 1689 immunization notices were sent to parents/guardians.

Public Health Ontario (PHO) provides an annual immunization coverage report for routine childhood vaccines and school-based vaccines in the Grade 7 program (HEP B, HPV, and MCV4), this information is not available until the following year. The most current available data from PHO reflects the 2023/2024 school year (Appendix A).

Internal WDGPH data indicates that the immunization coverage for 12-year-olds in the 2024/2025 school year increased slightly for all three school base vaccines (Hep B, HPV and MCV4) Please see Table 1.

Table 1.1: Immunization Coverage (%) for school-based immunization programs among 12-year-olds

Vaccine	WDGPH 2023-2024	WDGPH 2024-2025*	Ontario 2023-2024	Ontario 2024-2025
Hep B	59.1%	60.9%	61.8%	N/A
HPV	50.4%	52.7%	52.3%	N/A
MCV4	77.7%	78.0%	75.8%	N/A

*PHO provincial data unavailable for 2024/2025 at the time of this report

Table 1.2: Immunization Coverage (%) for school-based immunization programs among 17-year-olds

Vaccine	WDGPH 2023-2024	WDGPH 2024-2025	Ontario 2023-2024	Ontario 2024-2025*
Hep B	83.2%	78.3%	75.4%	N/A
HPV	76.8%	75.4%	68.0%	N/A
MCV4	96.2%	93.4%	89.6%	N/A

*PHO provincial data unavailable for 2024/2025 at the time of this report

Clinic Delivery:

WDGPH delivered school-based Grade 7 immunization clinics and high school catch-up clinics in all schools. **During the 2025 school year, WDGPH delivered immunizations to 4,339 students through school-based clinics.** Additional clinics, including after-hours and at satellite locations, supported accessibility for families.

Vaccine Coverage Improvement Initiatives

- Annual assessment of all student and licensed childcare immunization records assisted by WDG automation and AI technology.
- Delivery of immunization clinics in schools, WDGPH offices, and remote settings.
- Enhanced communications for Grade 7 families using VIPER technology which allows personalized messages to be delivered to the parent of each child detailing missing vaccines.
- Personalized and updated letters to parent and students reflecting the vaccine status for all publicly funded vaccines.
- Communications strategy including infographics, videos, and user-friendly materials to improve understanding and importance of vaccines across the lifespan.
- Enhancement of delivery of immunization notices including email notifications and the additional QR codes to support rapid, easy and accurate transfer of immunization data from the parent to WDG.

References

1. Government of Ontario. Immunization of School Pupils Act, R.S.O. 1990, c.I.1. [Immunization of School Pupils Act, R.S.O. 1990, c. I.1 | ontario.ca](#)
2. Ministry of Health, Ontario. Immunization for Children in Schools and Licensed Child Care Settings Protocol, 2018. [Immunization of School Pupils Act, R.S.O. 1990, c. I.1 | ontario.ca](#)
3. Public Health Ontario. Immunization Data Tool. February 7, 2025. [Immunization Data Tool | Public Health Ontario](#)

Related Reports

1. BH.01.NOV0526.R32-Immunization Requirements for Students Attending Schools in WDG. https://wdgpublichealth.ca/sites/default/files/bh.01.nov0624.r32_-_ispa.pdf
2. BH.01.SEP0424.R27-School Bases Immunization Program: A Focus on HPV. https://wdgpublichealth.ca/sites/default/files/bh.01.sep0424.r27_-_hvp.pdf
3. 3. BH.01.September 2026-School-Based Immunization and Implementation of the CARD system

Prepared By: Karen Mulvey, Manager, Vaccine Preventable Diseases

Approved By: Rita Isley, RN, MPA
VP, Community Health and Chief Nursing Officer

Submitted By: Dr. Nicola J. Mercer, MD, MBA, MPH, FRCPC
Medical Officer of Health & CEO

Appendices

Appendix A:

Table 2.1. Immunization coverage (%) for routine childhood vaccines among 7-year-olds (2023-2024 school year)³

	Measles	Mumps	Rubella	Diphtheria	Tetanus	Polio	Pertussis	Men C	Varicella
WDGPH	90.5%	90.2%	95.5%	89.8%	89.8%	90.4%	89.8%	94.4%	89.1%
Ontario	70.4%	70.2%	85.2%	69.9%	69.9%	70.2%	69.9%	82.1%	68.6%

Table 2.2: Immunization Coverage (%) for routine childhood vaccines among 17-year-olds (2023-2024 school year)³

	Measles	Mumps	Rubella	Diphtheria	Tetanus	Polio	Pertussis
WDGPH	97.3%	97.1%	98.5%	86.6%	86.5%	95.0%	86.9%
Ontario	91.6%	91.3%	93.7%	62.1%	62.1%	89.4%	63.0%