

Dear Parent/Guardian,

The Child Care and Early Years Act requires that students have up-to-date vaccines for tetanus, diphtheria, polio, measles, mumps, rubella (German measles), meningococcal disease (meningitis), haemophilus influenza type B (Hib), pertussis (whooping cough) and varicella (chickenpox). The following vaccines are strongly encouraged: pneumococcal, rotavirus and annual influenza.

If your child has not received some (or all) of these vaccines due to medical, conscience or religious beliefs, you must provide one of the following to Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph Public Health (WDGPH):

- **Statement of Medical Exemption for Child form** signed by your child's physician or nurse practitioner. The original signed document must be returned to WDGPH. Make a copy of the document for your personal records.
- **Statement of Conscience or Religious Belief for Child form.** Parents are responsible for the following:
  1. Complete the Statement of Conscience or Religious Belief for Child form and have it notarized by a Commissioner for Taking Affidavits (see a list of commissioners on the next page).
  2. Make a copy of the completed document for your personal records.
  3. Submit the signed original Statement of Conscience or Religious Belief form to WDGPH.

Please Note: When your child starts school, you will be required to submit a new Statement of Conscience or Religious Belief form and attend an Immunization Education Session at WDGPH.

The following commissioners are authorized to sign affidavits for a conscience or religious exemption. Please note there may be a fee for this service.

- Clerks, deputy clerks or treasurers of local municipalities
- Heads of municipal council, reeves or deputy reeves of towns, members of city council
- Administrative heads (building standards, welfare, assessment or planning)
- Barristers and solicitors entitled to practice law in Ontario

- Provincial judges or justices of the peace

If you wish to cancel an existing exemption on file, please contact vaccine records at 1-800-265-7293 ext. 4396. You will also need to provide a copy of your child's immunization record.

For the protection of your child and the child care community, you need to be aware that your child may be unable to attend school in the event of an outbreak or threatened outbreak of disease.

For more information and office locations please visit [www.wdgpUBLICHEALTH.ca](http://www.wdgpUBLICHEALTH.ca). If you have questions regarding vaccines or exemptions, call 1-800-265-7293 ext. 4746 to speak with a public health nurse.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Marlene Jantzi-Bauman', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Marlene Jantzi-Bauman RN, MPH, BScN, BHSc, CIC  
Manager, Vaccine Preventable Disease Program  
Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph Public Healthz

# BE WELL INFORMED - THE DECISION TO IMMUNIZE YOUR CHILD IS AN IMPORTANT ONE

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Wellington Dufferin Guelph Public Health strongly recommends immunization as a safe and effective way to protect yourself, your family and your community from vaccine-preventable diseases.

We encourage you to make an informed decision, and to know the risks and responsibilities as a parent when choosing not to immunize your child. If you are choosing not to immunize your child, please keep the following in mind:

- You may be putting your child at risk of serious illness or possibly death from diseases that could be prevented by vaccines
- If your child gets sick and needs medical attention, it is important to tell health care providers that they have not been immunized
- Your child may be unable to attend school/daycare if there is an outbreak or threatened outbreak of disease within the community
- Your child may unknowingly expose other children and/or adults that cannot be immunized for medical reasons to highly contagious diseases
- Summer camps, volunteer work, or certain college/university programs may require your child to have an up-to-date immunization record for enrolment
- If planning to travel outside of Canada, you put your child at a higher risk of getting dangerous diseases that are very contagious – these diseases are only a plane ride away

Should you change your mind in the future, your child may still receive their complete series of immunizations. You may call Public Health at any time to cancel your exemption and report immunizations given: 1-800-265-7293 ext 4396.

Speak with your healthcare provider or Public Health if you have any questions.

# Recommended Immunization Schedule for Children from Infancy to 6 Years

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## 2 months

**Diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis, polio, haemophilus, influenza type b vaccine (DTaP-IPV-Hib)** – Given by needle

**Pneumococcal conjugate vaccine (Pneu-C-13)** – Given by needle

**Rotavirus vaccine (Rot-1)** – Given by oral drops

## 4 months

**Diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis, polio, haemophilus, influenza type b vaccine (DTaP-IPV-Hib)** – Given by needle

**Pneumococcal conjugate vaccine (Pneu-C-13)** – Given by needle

**Rotavirus vaccine (Rot-1)** – Given by oral drops

## 6 months

**Diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis, polio, haemophilus, influenza type b vaccine (DTaP-IPV-Hib)** – Given by needle

## 12 months

**Measles, mumps, rubella vaccine (MMR)** – Given by needle

2 doses are required for school attendance\*; must be given on or after the 1<sup>st</sup> birthday and at least 28 days apart.

**Meningococcal conjugate vaccine (Men-C-C)** – Given by needle.  
Must be given on or after the 1<sup>st</sup> birthday.

**Pneumococcal conjugate vaccine (Pneu-C-13)** – Given by needle

## 15 months

**Varicella (chickenpox) vaccine (Var)** – Given by needle

## 18 months

**Diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis, polio, haemophilus, influenza type b vaccine (DTaP-IPV-Hib)** – Given by needle

## 4-6 years

**Tetanus, diphtheria, pertussis, polio vaccine (Tdap-IPV)** – Given by needle

**Measles, mumps, rubella, varicella (chickenpox) vaccine (MMRV)** – Given by needle

\*The second dose of MMR is usually given in combination with the second recommended dose of varicella at 4-6 years.