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 (enclosed) signed by your child's physician or nurse practitioner. A copy of this form is included in the package. 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 enclosed 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. If you have questions regarding vaccines or exemptions, call 1-800-265-7293 ext. 4746 to speak with a public health nurse.

Sincerely,

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