

SUBJECT: Students with Incomplete Immunization Records
Date: November 3, 2021
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To: Primary Care Physicians
From: Dr. Nicola Mercer, Medical Officer of Health & CEO

Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph Public Health (WDGPH) is in the process of notifying parents of their child's vaccination deficiencies. Public Health will **not** be suspending children for incomplete vaccinations; however it is important to provide catch-up vaccinations whenever possible. If your office is able to provide routine immunization appointments for your patients you can order vaccine from Public Health via the [vaccine order form](#). Alternatively, Public Health is currently providing grade 7 vaccines (Hepatitis B (HepB), Human Papillomavirus (HPV) and Men-C-ACYW (Meningitis)) through school-based clinics and specialized "catch-up clinics" in our offices.

Background

The *Immunization of School Pupils Act* requires students to have up-to-date immunization records on file with Public Health. At this time, approximately 12,000 elementary and high school students across Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph are overdue for vaccines. Students will receive their notice of overdue vaccines between December 2021 and February 2022. Due to COVID-19, Public Health will not be suspending students this school year but will be strongly encouraging students to obtain the required immunizations.

Grade 7 School-based immunization program

HepB, HPV and Menactra vaccines are provided to grade 7 students annually. Due to COVID-19 related closures of Ontario schools, this program was not completed for the past two cohorts of students. In the fall of 2021, the school-based immunization program resumed and all eligible students in grades 7 and 8 were offered these vaccinations. WDGPH will be providing the HepB, HPV and Menactra vaccines at all office locations for any students who may have missed these clinics. If you identify any of your children who are missing one of these vaccines, please encourage them to book an appointment by calling 1-800-265-7293 ext. 7006 or by visiting our website: wdgpublichealth.ca/immunizeGr7

Ordering Vaccine

To order more vaccine for your office, fax the [vaccine order form](#) to 519-823-4903.

Reporting Vaccinations to Public Health

- **Option 1:** If you provide childhood vaccines (ages 0-18), your office can report them to WDGPH. This will reduce calls to your office from patients or their guardians regarding the immunization status of school-aged children. Fax vaccine records to: 519-836-2986.
- **Option 2 NEW:** Parents can view or report immunizations to Public Health online at immunizewdg.ca using their child's Ontario-issued health card number. This online alternative to paper immunization records allows parents to securely keep track of their families' immunization records.

Exemptions

Children who cannot be immunized for medical reasons need to have a [Statement of Medical Exemption](#) completed by their physician and submitted to Public Health.

Routine Immunizations and the COVID-19 Vaccine

The National Advisory Committee on Immunization (NACI) recommends that the COVID-19 vaccine may be given concomitantly with, or at any time before or after, other vaccines¹. The risk of vaccine preventable diseases outweighs the risk of rare adverse events following immunization and delayed vaccine doses should be offered at the earliest opportunity.²

References:

1. National Advisory Committee on Immunization. Recommendations on the Use of COVID-19 vaccines, September 28, 2021. Available at: <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/immunization/national-advisory-committee-on-immunization-naci/recommendations-use-covid-19-vaccines.html#a7.7>
2. Centre for Vaccine Preventable Diseases. Maintaining Immunization for School-Aged Children During COVID-19: Expert and Stakeholders Roundtable Report, September 2021. Available at: <https://www.dlsph.utoronto.ca/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/Maintaining-Immunizations-for-School-Age-Children-During-COVID-19-Report-1.pdf>

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