

ADVISORY

SUBJECT: Students with Incomplete Immunization Records
Date: January 27, 2022
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To: Primary Care Providers
From: Dr. Matthew Tenenbaum, Associate Medical Officer of Health

Summary:

- WDGPH will be notifying students and families who have incomplete immunization records. Students will **not** be suspended if they have incomplete records, but the notice will serve as a reminder to get their records up-to-date.
- Primary care providers can fax immunization records to WDGPH at [519-836-2986](tel:519-836-2986).
- Students and families can also submit their records directly to WDGPH at immunizewdg.ca
- Where possible, primary care providers are encouraged to provide catch-up immunizations to students who need them. Students can also receive catch-up immunizations at clinics run by Public Health.

Background:

Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph Public Health (WDGPH) is in the process of notifying families whose children have incomplete immunization records. This specifically relates to immunizations required by the *Immunization of School Pupils Act (ISPA)* against the following diseases:

- Tetanus
- Diphtheria
- Polio
- Measles
- Mumps
- Meningococcal disease (meningitis)
- Rubella (German measles)
- Pertussis (whooping cough)
- Rubella (German measles)
- Varicella (chickenpox) – for children born on or after January 1, 2010

This notification will be sent out to students or parents of students in grades K-12 (ages 4-18) across Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph. Approximately 12,000 students in this age group are overdue for vaccines. Students and families will receive their notices indicating that their immunization records are incomplete on a rolling basis between January 24, 2022 and April 2022.

Reporting Vaccinations to Public Health

For students who have already been immunized with the appropriate vaccines, there are several

options for reporting the immunization records to Public Health:

1. **Fax from Primary Care Provider:** If you provide childhood vaccines (ages 0-18), your office can report them to WDGPH using our [standard form](#). Providers are encouraged to do this proactively, whenever they administer a vaccine. Students or families may also contact your office requesting copies of their immunization records in response to the notice from Public Health. Please fax vaccine records to: 519-836-2986.
2. **Online Reporting:** Students and families 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 family's immunization records.
3. **Email Reporting:** Students and families can submit their immunization records by email to vaccine.records@wdgpublichealth.ca.

Providing Catch-Up Vaccinations

Students who need to catchup on recommended vaccinations may present to their primary care provider with a copy of the notice that they have received. Primary care providers are asked to review this notice and to provide immunizations for which the individual is due, in accordance with [Ontario's Publicly Funded Immunization Schedule](#). To order more vaccine for your office, please fax the [vaccine order form](#) to 519-823-4903.

Public Health is also providing two additional options for students requiring catch-up immunizations:

1. Public Health will offer vaccine appointments at its three office locations and select satellite sites. Students can make an appointment at wdgpublichealth.ca/appointments or by calling [1-800-265-7293 ext. 7006](tel:1-800-265-7293).
2. Beginning in February, WDGPH will offer catch-up clinics for high school students in select high schools across the region. Dates and times are available at wdgpublichealth/ispa.

These clinics will offer any vaccines required under *ISPA* (see list above), as well as non-*ISPA* vaccines usually offered through the Grade 7 immunization program (Hep B & HPV-9).

Medical Exemptions

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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.

For more information, please contact:

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