

Vaccination requirements to attend school

Information for parents and guardians



**Public Health
Santé publique**
SUDBURY & DISTRICTS

What is the Immunization of School Pupils Act?

The *Immunization of School Pupils Act R.S.O. 1990* (ISPA) is the Ontario law that requires students to have up to date vaccinations (or a valid statement of exemption for medical reasons, reasons of conscience or religious beliefs) in order to attend school. Under ISPA legislation, students can be suspended from school if they do not have all the required vaccinations for (diphtheria, polio, tetanus, measles, mumps, rubella, meningococcal disease, and pertussis). Children born after January 1, 2010, are also required to have vaccination against varicella (chicken pox).

Why are students suspended from school for not having up to date vaccination records?

Immunization protects your child from vaccine preventable diseases and reduces the risk of disease outbreaks in schools.

In accordance with this law, Public Health Sudbury & Districts is mandated to enforce the legislation. Enforcement is conducted through a process where the last step is a suspension order.

Public Health Sudbury & Districts will send a reminder and issue orders to school principals to suspend students if records are incomplete.

Virtual learners are still required to receive necessary vaccines; however, a suspension will not be executed.

Who is responsible for reporting immunizations to Public Health Sudbury & Districts?

It is the parents/guardians' responsibility to report their child's immunizations to Public Health Sudbury & Districts. Although some health care providers' offices do report children's immunizations to us, they are not mandated to do so.

Parents and guardians can take the following steps to ensure that their child meets the immunization requirements:

- Check with their health care provider to ensure their child's immunization record is up to date.
- Ensure that their child's updated immunization record has been reported to Public Health Sudbury & Districts.

Parents and guardians of students 15 years of age and younger can access and update their child's immunization record by logging into phsd.ca/reportvaccines. Students 16 years of age and older can access and update their own records at phsd.ca/reportvaccines.

When I registered my child for school, I gave a copy of their immunization card to the school. Why do I also need to report the vaccinations directly to Public Health Sudbury & Districts?

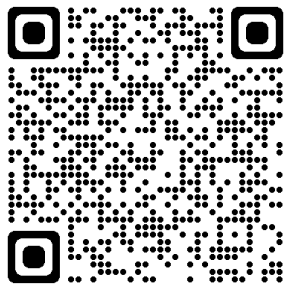
When a child is first registered at a school, the school may take a copy of the immunization record and send it to us. However, when children receive further vaccinations parents or guardians must report these to ensure their child's records are up to date with the vaccinations that are required to attend school.

How can I report my child's vaccinations to Public Health Sudbury & Districts?

- **Online:** the online reporting tool is available at phsd.ca/reportvaccines.
- **In person:** bring a copy of your child's immunization record to any of our locations during regular business hours.
- **By phone:** call our dedicated line to provide the information at **705.522.9200, ext. 458 (toll-free 1.866.522.9200)**.
- **Fax:** a copy of your child's record can be faxed to **705.677.9616**.

- **Mail:** a copy of child's record can be mailed to:
Public Health Sudbury & Districts
Attention: Health Promotion and Vaccine
Preventable Diseases Division 1300 Paris
Street Sudbury, ON P3E 3A3

Report vaccines:
705.522.9200, ext. 458
phsd.ca/reportvaccines



Where can my child receive vaccination?

- Health care provider
- Walk-in clinic
- Public Health Sudbury & Districts, **705.522.9200**

You must obtain a written copy of the vaccine record and contact Public Health Sudbury & Districts to report the vaccines.

Can my child be exempted from vaccination?

We encourage parents and guardians to ensure their child is protected against vaccine preventable diseases. If, however, parents or guardians require a vaccine

exemption for their child there are two types:

- **Statement of Medical Exemption:**
This form must be completed and signed by a physician or nurse practitioner, stating the reason for the medical exemption.
- **Statement of Conscience or Religious Belief:**
A Commissioner of Oaths must swear the affidavit. Parents and guardians must also complete an education session on immunization at one of Public Health Sudbury & Districts' offices (except the Elm Place location). Please contact us to book an appointment.

Both forms can be downloaded from the Ontario government website at www.forms.ssb.gov.on.ca.

Parents and guardians can contact Public Health Sudbury & Districts for assistance with this process.

The completed exemption forms must be submitted to Public Health Sudbury & Districts. For your protection, students who do not have the required vaccinations may be excluded in the event of an outbreak of a vaccine preventable disease in their school.

How long can my child be suspended?

The suspension may last for up to 20 school days until records are provided, reviewed, and approved by Public Health Sudbury & Districts. The suspension may be re-issued for additional periods of up to 20 days if the information is not received.

Who can parents and guardians speak to for more information?

A dedicated phone line to answer calls related to student immunizations **705.522.9200, ext. 458 (toll-free 1.866.522.9200)**.