

School Vaccination Fact Sheet

Information on vaccines for protection against meningitis, hepatitis B, and human papillomavirus.

Instructions for parents and legal guardians:

1. Read this information sheet in full.
2. Complete the attached consent form and return the form to your child's school.

Prepare your child for the school clinic by:

1. Reviewing their most current vaccination record. Remember, **it is the responsibility of parents and legal guardians of children under 16 years old to report their children's immunization records to public health.** If your child has already received any doses of a meningitis vaccine, a hepatitis B vaccine, or a human papilloma virus vaccine, please submit their records online by visiting phsd.ca/reportvaccines or by scanning the QR code below.



2. Ensuring they have something to eat and drink before they are vaccinated to help prevent feeling faint or dizzy.
3. Encouraging them to wear a top that allows for easy access to the upper arm such as a loose-fitting top or a T-shirt.

INVASIVE MENINGOCOCCAL DISEASE

What is invasive meningococcal disease (IMD) A, C, W-135 and Y?

Invasive meningococcal disease is caused by infection with bacteria called *Neisseria meningitis* and can cause swelling around the brain or spinal cord. It can lead to complications like deafness, paralysis, loss of limb, and death.

Symptoms of IMD include fever, severe headache, stiff neck, nausea, vomiting, and rash. It is a serious illness and outbreaks of IMD have occurred in schools across Canada.

How are the bacteria that cause IMD spread?

The bacteria that cause IMD are spread from person-to-person through respiratory droplets or saliva. This means a person can be infected through:

- kissing
- sharing food, drinks, or lip balm
- close contact with secretions from the nose or throat of a person who is infected – like when someone sneezes or coughs

How can IMD be prevented?

Immunization can prevent IMD. The meningococcal vaccine is a safe and effective option to protect against the A, C, W-135, and Y types of IMD.

Who should get the meningococcal (A, C, W-135 and Y) vaccine?

When students enter Grade 7, they are recommended to receive the meningococcal (A, C, W-135 and Y) vaccine. The sooner it is received, the earlier the student will be protected. Students remain eligible to receive the vaccine at no cost from Grade 7 to Grade 12. In Ontario, the meningococcal (A, C, W-135 and Y) vaccine is required under provincial law to attend school. Students may be suspended from school if they do not receive the vaccine or if they do not have a valid exemption in place. Students should receive the meningococcal (A, C, W-135 and Y) vaccine even if they previously received a meningitis C vaccine. Receipt of these meningitis vaccines must be separated by at least four weeks.

Who should not get the meningococcal vaccine?

Students with allergies to tetanus toxoid protein, sodium chloride, trometamol, sucrose, or water should not get the vaccine.

What are the possible side effects of the meningitis vaccine?

The most commonly reported side effects are:

- redness, warmth, or slight swelling at the injection site.
- headache
- low-grade fever
- decreased energy

HEPATITIS B

What is hepatitis B?

Hepatitis B is a viral infection that can cause inflammation of the liver and, in some cases, can lead to long-lasting liver disease. The liver is an important organ that helps with the digestion of food and removes toxins from the body. When it is inflamed or damaged, the liver's ability to function can be reduced.

Symptoms of hepatitis B infection may include tiredness, loss of appetite, stomach discomfort, and yellow skin (jaundice).

About 10% of people who are infected with the hepatitis B virus will carry the virus for the rest of their life and this can lead to other people becoming infected. The hepatitis B virus can be carried in blood, semen, vaginal fluid, and saliva.

How is the hepatitis B virus spread?

The hepatitis B virus is spread from person to person when the bodily fluids of an infected person enter the body of someone who is not infected. This means a person can be infected through:

- sexual contact
- sharing needles used for tattooing or piercing
- sharing needles to inject drugs
- contact during birth and delivery from mother to child

Ce document est également disponible en français. Visitez phsd.ca/vaccineleves



What is the hepatitis B vaccine?

It is a safe and effective vaccine that offers protection against serious infection of the liver caused by the hepatitis B virus. For full protection against hepatitis B, two doses of the vaccine are needed.

Who should get the hepatitis B vaccine?

When students enter Grade 7, they are recommended to receive the hepatitis B vaccine. The sooner it is received, the earlier the student will be protected. Students remain eligible to receive the vaccine at no cost from Grade 7 to Grade 12.

Who should not get the hepatitis B vaccine?

Students with allergies to latex, yeast, sodium chloride, sodium borate, formaldehyde, disodium phosphate dihydrate, polysorbate20, or sodium dihydrogen phosphate dihydrate should not receive the vaccine.

What are the possible side effects of the hepatitis B vaccine?

The most commonly reported side effects are:

- redness, warmth, or slight swelling at the injection site
- low-grade fever
- decreased energy

HUMAN PAPILLOMAVIRUS (HPV)

What is human papillomavirus (HPV)?

Human papillomavirus (HPV) is the name of a very common group of viruses. Infections caused by HPV affect the skin and they can affect people of any sex or gender. Infections caused by high-risk types of the virus can lead to the following conditions:

- abnormal and precancerous cervical lesions
- cervical cancer
- vaginal and vulvar cancers
- anal and penile cancers
- cancers of the mouth and throat
- genital warts

While the conditions caused by HPV can often be treated, people will carry the virus for the rest of their life, and this can lead to other people becoming infected.

How is HPV spread?

HPV is spread from person-to-person through skin-to-skin sexual contact. This means a person can be infected through:

- vaginal, anal, or oral sex
- close skin-to-skin sexual touching

A person with HPV can pass the virus to someone else even when they have no signs or symptoms of being infected.

What is the HPV vaccine?

The HPV vaccine, Gardasil 9®, is a safe and effective vaccine that offers protection against nine strains of HPV. Seven of the strains prevented by the vaccine are high-risk strains that can lead to cancer and genital warts if contracted. Depending on the age of the child, two or three doses are required for the best protection.

Who should receive the HPV vaccine?

When students enter Grade 7, they are recommended to receive the HPV vaccine. The sooner it is received, the earlier the student will be protected. However, students remain eligible to receive the vaccine at no cost from Grade 7 to Grade 12.

The HPV vaccine is most effective *before* individuals become sexually active.

Who should not get the HPV vaccine?

Students with allergies to yeast, polysorbate 80, L-histidine, sodium chloride, or sodium borate should not receive the HPV vaccine.

NOTE:

Serious side effects following the administration of any vaccine (including the meningitis vaccine, the hepatitis B vaccine, and the HPV vaccine) are rare.

Seek immediate medical attention if your child has any of the following reactions:

- Trouble breathing
- swelling of the face or mouth
- fever above 40°C (104°F)
- hives or rash
- any other serious problems

Your child will be monitored by Public Health staff for 15 minutes after receiving one or more vaccines at school.

For more information about vaccines or the upcoming clinic at your child's school, please call the Vaccine Preventable Diseases team at 705.522.9200 ext. 458 (toll-free 1.866.522.9200) to speak with a public health nurse.

