

Student Immunization Catch-up Clinics Frequently Asked Questions

Why does my child need these vaccines?

- To protect them from preventable diseases that can have serious consequences
- Some of these vaccines (Tdap booster and Men-C-ACYW vaccine for Meningococcal disease are required to attend school in Ontario unless you have a valid exemption on file)
- Some of these vaccines (like Hepatitis B and the HPV vaccine) are only provided for free to specific age groups and you may be required to pay out of pocket to receive them when older.

Which vaccines will be provided and when?

Public Health Nurses will be providing the following four immunizations at clinics to students who missed out on these routine vaccines during the COVID-19 pandemic when public health was not able to come into the schools to administer them. For more information on each of these vaccines and what they protect against - see this [factsheet](#).

- Meningococcal ACYW-135 – Grades 7-12
- Hepatitis B - Grades 7-12
- HPV – Grades 7-12
- Tdap booster (Tetanus, Diphtheria, Pertussis – normally given at age 14–16)

Are these vaccines required for school attendance?

Meningococcal ACYW-135 and the Tdap booster are required for school attendance under the [Immunization of School Pupils Act \(ISPA\)](#). Hepatitis B and HPV are strongly recommended, but are not required. Eligibility to receive the Hepatitis B and HPV vaccines free of charge is limited.

Will students receive all vaccines in one visit?

This will depend on what each individual student is missing! If you are not sure which ones they need, you can check this [ICON online portal](#) to see what we have on record. You will need their health card to sign-in.

Is it safe to receive more than one vaccine at a time?

Yes! Each day our immune system fights off millions of different germs (antigens) that it is exposed to. Vaccines contain only a small amount of antigens compared to what we are exposed to daily. Children's daily exposure to germs (antigens) allows their immune systems to be well equipped to handle many vaccines at once. Receiving multiple vaccines is safe, convenient and ensures the best protection of our child at the earliest age possible.

Are the vaccine catch up clinics just for Grade 7 students?

The vaccine catch up clinics are open to all eligible students in Grades 7-12. If your child's immunization schedule was disrupted by the COVID-19 pandemic, book an appointment into one of our clinics and our nurses will review their vaccine history on-site with you. If your child is currently in grades 7-10 then they are very likely missing some; and students in grades 11 and 12 may be missing some if they happened to be absent on the day we came to their school prior to the pandemic.

Do I need to complete a consent form in advance?

Immunizations are done in a school setting, school policy requires written parental or guardian consent.

My child started these vaccines prior to the COVID-19 pandemic school shutdowns. It has been a long time and now they are off schedule. Do they need to restart their series?

No, they do not need to restart their series. As per the Canadian Immunization Guide, a vaccine series does not need to be restarted regardless of the time between doses. At the clinic the nurse will review your child's immunization history and complete the doses your child is missing to bring them up to date.

My child recently recovered from COVID-19, how long should they wait before getting their vaccines?

They must wait a minimum of 10 days from the start of their symptoms or positive test and should be recovered and feeling well when they receive any vaccines.

Can my child's doctor provide these vaccines?

Most doctors and nurse practitioners can provide the Meningococcal and Tdap boosters if they have the vaccines in stock. Health care providers don't have regular access to the HPV or Hepatitis B vaccines. If you are able to get any immunizations directly from your healthcare provider, please let us know they have received them so we can update our records. You can do that online. Details here: <https://lgl.icon.ehealthontario.ca/#!/welcome>.

How can I check and/or update my child's immunization record?

To update, view and print your child's current, overdue and upcoming immunizations online visit [Immunization Connect Ontario \(ICON\)](#). If there is information missing from this record and/or you are unable to use the online portal, you can also reach out to the Health Unit directly by:

E-mail: immunizationrecords@healthunit.org

Phone: 1-844-369-1234

Fax: 613-345-7038

Mail: Leeds, Grenville and Lanark District Health Unit

458 Laurier Boulevard

Brockville, Ontario

K6V 7A3

Attention: Immunization

To help process your information quickly, please attach a copy of your immunization record. This will help ensure the data is recorded accurately!

Is there a risk of suspension if my child doesn't get their school vaccines?

The suspension process will resume in the 2022-2023 school year. It is still recommended to update your child's immunizations as soon as possible to keep them safe from these preventable diseases. You may receive a notice (i.e. letter, phone call) as a reminder if your child has an incomplete immunization record.



**For more information, please call 1-800-660-5853
or visit our website at www.healthunit.org**