

Grade 7 School-based Vaccination Program

What is the Grade 7 school-based vaccination program?

Every year, Halton Region Public Health provides immunization clinics to vaccinate grade 7 students.

The following vaccines are given at school clinics:

- HPV-9: two doses given six months apart
- Hepatitis B: two doses given six months apart
- Meningococcal (Men-C-ACYW): one dose.

These vaccines are publicly-funded and are at no cost to recipients. Students can still be immunized if they do not have an Ontario Health Card.

Additional Public Health immunization clinics may also be available for students who were not immunized at school. Primary health care providers can also provide vaccines that are typically given at school.

Please do not delay getting your child immunized. Completing all routine immunizations helps protect your child, your family and other residents against disease. Some vaccines are publicly-funded for a limited time, or student may age-out of eligibility.

Meningococcal vaccination is required for school attendance. Your child must be up-to-date with the meningococcal vaccine or have a valid exemption on file to avoid school suspension. For details visit halton.ca/immunize.

Already got the vaccine?
Your child may have already received one or more of these vaccines. Ensure that you have reported all vaccines to Public Health by visiting halton.ca/immunize or by calling 311.

What is meningococcal disease?

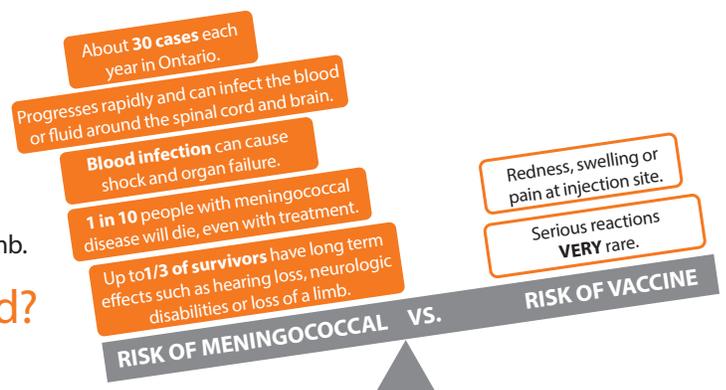
- An infection that is usually caused by five different groups of bacteria.
- Infects the blood or fluid around the brain and spinal cord.
- Meningococcal disease is rare, but symptoms can appear and become life threatening very quickly.
- Can cause permanent hearing loss, brain damage or loss of a limb.

How is meningococcal disease spread?

- By direct contact with saliva or mucus from an infected person (e.g. kissing, sharing drinks or eating utensils).
- Infected people can spread the disease for seven days before becoming sick.
- Antibiotics can usually stop the bacteria from spreading within 24 hours of starting treatment.

Prevention

- Vaccination provides protection against 4 out of the 5 groups of bacteria that cause infection of the blood and fluid around the brain and spinal cord.
- The vaccine is safe and is 80-85% effective.
- This vaccine is required for school attendance in Ontario.



What is hepatitis B?

- A very contagious virus that attacks the liver.
- Can cause liver disease and liver cancer.
- There is no cure. Most people get better, but others will stay infected and carry the virus in their body for the rest of their lives.

How is hepatitis B spread?

- By direct contact with the blood or body fluids of an infected person. It can spread through:
 - direct contact with blood or open sores on an infected person
 - sharing razors or toothbrushes
 - unprotected sex
 - sharing needles or syringes
 - mother to baby during childbirth
- Infected people can spread the virus to others, even if they do not look or feel sick.

Prevention

- Vaccination is the best way to protect against hepatitis B. It provides protection for at least 30 years.
- The vaccine is safe and is 95-100% effective when all doses are given.

What is HPV?

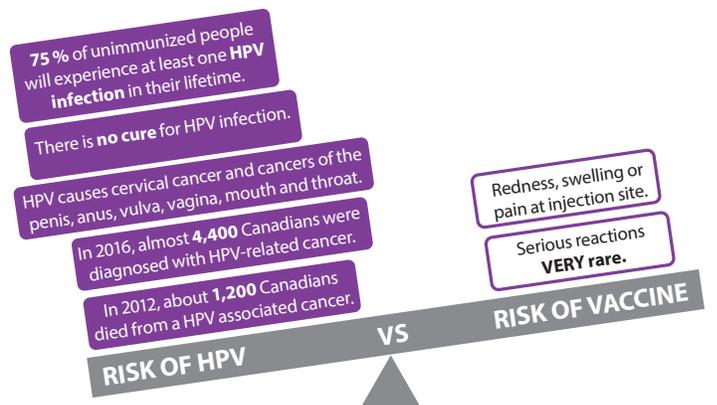
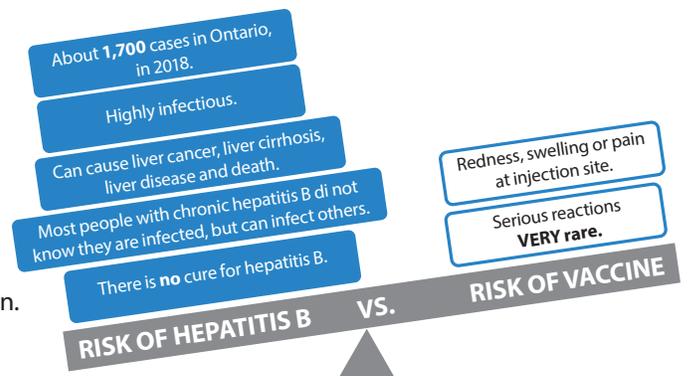
- Human papillomavirus (HPV) is a very common virus.
- There are many different types of HPV.
- Most people with HPV do not develop any symptoms.
- Some types of HPV can cause cancer and genital warts.

How is HPV spread?

- By intimate skin-to-skin contact with someone who has the virus (e.g. vaginal, anal or oral sex).

Prevention

- Vaccination provides protection against nine types of HPV that cause cancer and genital warts.
- The vaccine is safe and is almost 100% effective when all doses are given.
- It is important to vaccinate your child before they are sexually active.



Sources:

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