

HALTON REGION HEALTH DEPARTMENT
OFFICE OF THE ASSOCIATE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
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TO: Halton Physicians

Medical Chiefs of Staff: Joseph Brant Hospital, Halton Healthcare (Oakville, Milton and Georgetown Hospitals)
Chairs of: Family Practice, Paediatrics, Internal Medicine, Emergency, Obstetrics and Gynaecology, Surgery
Chief of Laboratory Services and Infection Control Practitioners

POST IN: Emergency Department and Physicians Lounge

FROM: Dr. Julie Emili, Associate Medical Officer of Health

DATE: January 29, 2018

RE: Potential increased demand for immunization due to school suspensions starting Feb. 9, 2018

There is less than two weeks left until the Halton Region Health Department enforces the immunization requirements for school attendance found in the Immunization of School Pupils Act. Your office may experience a surge in requests related to immunization. High school students born between 2000-2003 with incomplete immunization records on file with public health are at risk of school suspension starting February 9, 2018. Orders of suspension were mailed to parents in early January.

As of January 29, 2018, there are approximately 3,500 high school students at risk of suspension from school. For information on required immunizations to attend school please visit the Ministry of Health and Long Term Care website at www.health.gov.on.ca/en/pro/programs/immunization/ispa.aspx.

To help prepare for the potential increased service demands, you and your office staff should:

- Prepare for additional appointment requests for immunization.
- Be aware that the correct vaccine for meningococcal disease prevention in clients born between the years 2000-2003 is meningococcal ACYW-135 (Menactra®).
- Be reminded that meningococcal C conjugated vaccine (Menjugate®) must not be given in place of the required Menactra®.
- Clients requiring Menactra® need to contact the health department to make arrangements to receive this vaccine due to the suspension date fast approaching and Menactra® is not routine stock for community health care providers.

The required immunization information, or exemption form must be received by the health department before February 9, 2018 to avoid school suspension. Parents and students can report up-to-date immunization records using the online reporting form located at halton.ca/immunize or by dialing 311. Immunization records can be delivered in person or mailed to 1151 Bronte Road in Oakville, Ontario L6M 3L1 or alternatively by fax at 905-465-3403.

As of September 2017, a new law came into effect that requires parents who decide not to vaccinate their child for personal reasons, must attend a vaccine education session provided by public health. Parents can register for an education session by dialing 311 or online at halton.ca/immunize.

Please report all suspected or confirmed cases of [reportable diseases](#) to the Halton Region Health Department immediately. Dial 311, 905-825-6000 or toll free at 1-866-442-5866. For general information, please visit www.halton.ca/physicians. To sign up for important updates by email, visit www.halton.ca/physicianupdates.

If any link provided in this memo does not work, please cut and paste it into your web browser.