



## Message from the Medical Officer of Health

While summer is hopefully bringing you some well-deserved time to relax and recharge, we also know that families often use the summer months to prepare for the return to school. That makes this the perfect time to touch base with families and younger patients about their vision to make sure they can see those smartboards in September. We ask our physician community to encourage caregivers to book OHIP-covered eye exams to help protect their vision, and prevent learning, behavioural and self-image issues. Back-to-school visits are also the perfect time to ensure your patients are up-to-date on vaccines. Making sure people of all ages receive their vaccinations on time is one of the most important things you can do as a physician to protect their long-term health – as well as the health of others in our community.

Have a wonderful summer and thank you for all you do to keep Halton healthy!



**Dr. Hamidah Meghani**  
Medical Officer of Health, Halton Region

# What's new for Halton physicians?



## Encourage comprehensive eye exams during well-child visits

You have a unique opportunity during well-child visits to encourage caregivers to book eye exams for their children. Children 19 years and younger are covered by OHIP for one major eye exam for vision and general eye health every 12 months. For information about programs to help with the cost of purchasing glasses, visit our [Visual Health For Children page](#) at [halton.ca](#).



## Health Department now supplying HPV9 to eligible students

Students who have an incomplete series of HPV4 vaccine can complete their series with HPV9. The series does not need to be restarted. Students who have finished a series of HPV4 are considered fully immunized and NACI does not recommend routine re-immunization with HPV9. If students have missed a dose, physicians can order the HPV9 vaccine by visiting our [Vaccine Information for Physicians page](#) at [halton.ca](#).



## Use the summer to review immunization records to help avoid the rush

During the 2019-2020 school year, high school students and those born in 2010-2012 with out-of-date immunization records will be at risk for school suspension in early 2020. If needed, you can special order the Men-C-ACYW-135 vaccine for eligible students (born in 2002-2006) from the Halton Region Health Department.



Visit our [Information for Physicians page](#) at [halton.ca](#) to sign up for important health updates emailed to you from the Health Department.



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