



Message from the Medical Officer of Health

It's hard to believe it's already December. This past year has been a busy one! It was Halton's first year returning to a suspension model for enforcing the *Immunization of School Pupils Act (ISPA)* and we continue to ask that you encourage your younger patients to get immunized to avoid school suspension.

Quitting smoking remains one of the top resolutions people commit to every year. With the New Year approaching, consider helping your patients succeed in making this important lifestyle change by referring them to the Halton Region Health Department's STOP Smoking Clinic. Together, we can help patients make 2017 their year to quit. Wishing you a peaceful, safe and healthy holiday season!



Dr. Hamidah Meghani
Medical Officer of Health, Halton Region

What's new for Halton physicians?



It's easy to report your child's vaccines online



Immunizing students to avoid suspension

For the 2016-17 school year, the Halton Region Health Department is focused on ensuring the immunization records of students born in 1999-2000 are complete and will be issuing suspension notices for this age group early in 2017. We ask that you also encourage parents of patients who are age 5-7 to ensure their children's immunization records are up-to-date and reported to the Health Department. For a list of mandatory vaccines, visit halton.ca/physicians. For questions regarding the enforcement of *ISPA* and/or the required vaccinations for school attendance, please dial 311 or visit halton.ca/immunize.

Reporting immunizations

When immunizing children and especially students facing suspension, please remind your patients of the importance of reporting all immunizations and exemptions to the Halton Region Health Department by dialing 311 or online at halton.ca/immunize.

Supporting patients who want to stop smoking

To support patients who want to quit using tobacco, and who will benefit from 1:1 counseling, let them know about the Halton Region Health Department's STOP Smoking Clinic. The clinic is offered in four locations throughout Halton and provides free individual counseling and nicotine replacement to eligible tobacco users. For more information see halton.ca/healthclinics.



Visit halton.ca/physicianupdates to sign up for important health updates emailed to you from the Health Department.



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