

Important: Immunization Information for Grade 7/8 Students 2021/2022 School Year

Dear Parent/Guardian:

Halton Region Public Health provides immunization clinics for Grade 7 students at public, private, Catholic and French schools. This regular school-based immunization program is starting again in April 2022. Public Health nurses will come to your child's school to offer three free vaccines to students in both **grades 7 and 8** who have parental consent:

- [Meningococcal ACYW-135](#) (NIMENRIX®) (*required for school attendance*)
1 dose
- [Hepatitis B](#) (ENGERIX®-B) (*recommended*)
2 doses given 6 months apart
- [Human Papillomavirus](#) (GARDASIL®9) (*recommended*)
2 doses given 6 months apart

Nurses will assess students' records and offer all vaccines they are eligible for and have parental consent to receive.

Note: These clinics will **NOT** be offering COVID-19 vaccines.

We request that you:

1. **Read** the [vaccine fact sheet](#) (also available in [Urdu](#), [Chinese](#), [French](#), [Spanish](#), [Punjabi](#), [Arabic](#), [Hindi](#)).
2. **Complete** and sign the consent form for the vaccines you want your child to get.
3. **Return** the consent form to your child's school office by **April 6, 2022**. Only students with a signed consent form will be immunized on the day of the school clinic.

Update Your Child's Immunization Record

Your child may have already received one or more of the vaccines listed above. Every time your child gets an immunization from their healthcare provider, you need to update Halton Region Public Health. Your healthcare provider's office does not report these records for you. Public Health nurses will review your child's immunization record and vaccinate only if required.

To report immunizations:



Visit halton.ca/Immunize



Download the **Onehalton App**



Call **311**

Frequently Asked Questions

Why are these vaccines being offered now?

These vaccines are routinely offered to Grade 7 students in schools as part of Halton's regular immunization programming. This program was paused due to the pandemic, and is now able to resume. Completing all routine immunizations helps protect you, your family and other residents against disease. It can also prevent illnesses that lead to unnecessary medical visits, hospitalizations, and further strain to the health care system.

What happens if I don't want this vaccination for my child?

Meningococcal ACWY-135 is a required vaccine as per the *Immunization of School Pupils Act* (ISPA). If you choose not to vaccinate your child, you will eventually need to obtain an exemption from Halton Region Public Health in order for your child to continue attending school. Due to the pandemic, Halton Region Public Health is **NOT** currently enforcing ISPA and is not accepting vaccine exemptions. Check Halton Region's [web pages](#) for updates.

Human papillomavirus and hepatitis B are *recommended* vaccines, but they are not legally required for school attendance and do not require an exemption.

If you decline vaccination and then change your mind after school clinics have already occurred, children may also be able to receive these vaccines through their primary care provider or in future community clinics. Some vaccines are publicly-funded for a limited time, and the student may only be eligible until a certain age or grade. To learn more, visit halton.ca/immunize or call 311.

What happens if my child missed a second dose of hepatitis B or HPV due to the pandemic?

Students can still catch-up on the second doses of both hepatitis B and HPV without restarting the vaccine series. The second dose is recommended to be given a minimum of six months after the first dose, however having a longer than recommended interval between vaccine doses will still provide the same immunity.

Is it safe to get more than one vaccine at the same time?

Yes. These vaccines have been offered together safely for many years, along with other routine vaccinations in childhood. Getting more than one vaccine at the same time ensures students get the best protection against serious diseases earlier rather than later.

Does my child need to wait after having a COVID-19 vaccine before they can get these vaccines?

Children 12 years or older **do not need to wait** between receiving the COVID-19 vaccine and receiving any of these vaccines. It is recommended that children 5-11 years of age wait at least 14 days before and after they receive the COVID-19 vaccine and another vaccine.

Can my child receive these vaccines if they recently had a COVID-19 infection?

Yes, as long as your child is feeling well and has completed the required isolation period.

Will COVID-19 vaccines be available at these school clinics?

No. Students who are eligible to receive a COVID-19 vaccine can visit halton.ca/COVIDvaccines to find out where they can receive it.

For more Frequently Asked Questions and information, visit halton.ca/immunize.