

HALTON REGION PUBLIC HEALTH • Office of the Medical Officer of Health

TEL: 905-825-6000 • TOLL FREE: 1-866-442-5866 • FAX: 905-825-1444

TO: Halton Physicians, Nurse Practitioners, Emergency Departments, other Healthcare Providers

FROM: Dr. Joanna Oda, Associate Medical Officer of Health

DATE: March 10, 2025

RE: Enforcement of the Immunization of School Pupils Act may result in higher calls to your office

QUICK FACTS

- Halton Region Public Health is enforcing the *Immunization of School Pupils Act* (ISPA) for elementary students born in 2011, 2012 and 2017 (students in Grades 2, 7 and 8).
- Families of elementary students with incomplete immunization records on file with Public Health will begin receiving suspension notices this week.
- The suspension period for elementary students with incomplete immunization records will begin on **March 27, 2025**.
- Remind families to promptly report their records to public health, especially at the time of immunization, by going to halton.ca/immunize or calling 905-825-6000 or 311 within Halton Region.
- Continue to use the [School-Based Vaccine Ordering and Reporting Form](#) to order school-based vaccines.

KEY MESSAGES FOR HEALTHCARE PROVIDERS

- Your office may experience an increase in immunization-related requests as parents respond to letters from Public Health related to ISPA enforcement. Public Health run clinics have limited availability.
- Patients with incomplete immunizations, or lacking adequate documentation of immunization, should be considered unimmunized and started on an immunization schedule appropriate for their age and risk factors. Refer to Catch-up Schedule 2: Children Starting Immunization between 7-17 Years in [Publicly Funded Immunization Schedules for Ontario – June 2022](#).
- If you have questions about a student's record, refer to our [ISPA Resource Guide for Healthcare Professionals](#) or call 311 and ask to speak to a Public Health Nurse.
- Some students may be eligible for medical exemptions based on serologic immunity, clinical diagnosis of disease or a true vaccine contraindication. The [Statement of Medical Exemption form](#) must be filled out by a medical doctor or nurse practitioner.
- Students born 2010 or later require two doses of varicella vaccine ≥ 1 year of age. Students with a history of disease (clinical diagnosis or immunity by serology) require a completed [Statement of Medical Exemption form](#).
- Students born in **2017** require one dose of **Meningococcal Conjugate C** ≥ 1 year of age.

- Students born in **2011** and **2012** require one dose of **Meningococcal Conjugate ACYW-135** beginning in Grade 7.
- Remind families to promptly report their records to public health, especially at the time of immunization, by going to halton.ca/immunize or calling 905-825-6000 or 311 within Halton Region.

KEY MESSAGES FOR PATIENTS

- Take action **now** to avoid suspension. Call 905-825-6000 or 311 within Halton Region if you need assistance.
- Parents or guardians are responsible for reporting all their child's immunizations to Public Health, including any school-based vaccines that were not given by Public Health, by visiting halton.ca/immunize.
- Students may have already received the required vaccines during childhood, and the records only need to be reported to Public Health (the student may not need any additional immunizations).
- Families seeking a vaccine exemption due to personal choice must receive a Vaccine Education Certificate and complete a Statement of Conscience or Religious Belief form. Visit halton.ca/immunize for more information.
- Immunization is the best way to protect your child, family, and community from life-threatening diseases.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- [Vaccine Information for Physicians](#), Halton Region Public Health
- [Publicly Funded Immunization Schedules for Ontario June 2022](#)
- [ISPA Resource Guide for Healthcare Professionals](#)
- [Ordering School-Based Vaccines](#)

Please report all suspected/confirmed cases of [Diseases of Public Health Significance](#) (only report COVID-19 cases occurring in high-risk settings) to Public Health immediately by calling 311, 905-825-6000 or toll free at 1-866-442-5866.

PLEASE PROVIDE A COPY TO ALL PHYSICIANS IN YOUR OFFICE AND/OR POST IN EMERGENCY DEPARTMENTS AND PHYSICIAN LOUNGES. IF YOU HAVE ANY ISSUES WITH THIS ATTACHMENT, PLEASE EMAIL DOCTORS@HALTON.CA.