

HALTON REGION HEALTH DEPARTMENT • 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

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

DATE: January 31, 2020

RE: **Enforcement of *Immunization of School Pupils Act* Winter 2020**

QUICK FACTS

- The Halton Region Health Department will be enforcing the *Immunization of School Pupils Act* for:
 - students born in 2002 to 2005 (grade 9 to 12) with outdated records will be suspended **February 6 through March 5** or until the Health Department receives the requested information and
 - students born in 2010 to 2012 (grade 2 to 4) with outdated records will be suspended **March 26 through April 24** or until the Health Department receives the requested information.
- Your office may experience an increase in immunization-related requests as parents respond to letters from the Health Department warning those with incomplete records of possible school suspension.
- Families of impacted students have received letters indicating what information is missing. Please ask families to bring this letter with them to your office.
- All school students must have complete immunization records or a valid exemption on file with the Halton Region Health Department.

KEY MESSAGES FOR HEALTHCARE PROVIDERS

- The Health Department is holding several walk-in immunization clinics next week for students born in 2002 to 2005 (high school cohort) who have received suspension orders. Please see the [Vaccine Information for Physicians](#) page on halton.ca for details.
- Men-C-ACYW-135 vaccine (Menactra) is required for students born in 2002 to 2005. These students should not receive MenC-C (Menjugate or NeisVacC). Students who require Men-C-ACYW-135 should be referred to the walk-in clinics noted above.
- Two doses of varicella vaccine are required for all students born in 2010 to 2012.
- **Live vaccines must be given after the first birthday. They must be given on the same day or a minimum of 4 weeks apart (6 weeks is preferred).**
- 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.
- If you have questions about the student's record, please call 311 and ask to speak to an Immunization Nurse.

KEY MESSAGES FOR PATIENTS

- Families who object to immunization due to personal choice must attend a Vaccine Education session offered by the Health Department and complete a [Statement of Conscience or Religious Belief form](#).
- Immunization is the best way to protect your child, family and community from life-threatening diseases.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- [Publicly Funded Immunization Schedules for Ontario](#).

Please report all suspected/confirmed cases of [Diseases of Public Health Significance](#) (including positive TB skin test results) to Public Health immediately by calling 311, 905-825-6000 or toll free at 1-866-442-5866.

PLEASE POST IN EMERGENCY DEPARTMENTS AND PHYSICIAN LOUNGES

IF YOU CAN'T ACCESS HYPERLINKS, PLEASE SIGN UP FOR ELECTRONIC UPDATES BY EMAILING DOCTORS@HALTON.CA