

Immunization Information for Grade 7 Students
 2023/2024 School Year

Dear parents/guardians of students in grade 7,

Halton Region Public Health provides immunization clinics for Grade 7 students at public, private, Catholic and French schools.

From early October to mid-December 2023, and again from April to June 2024, public health nurses will be visiting schools across Halton to offer the following vaccines to eligible Grade 7 students who have parental consent:

Vaccines available at school clinics	Requirement or recommendation
Meningococcal Conjugate-ACYW-135	Required for school attendance (1 dose)
Human Papillomavirus – HPV	Recommended (2 doses given 6 months apart*)
Hepatitis B – HB	Recommended (2 doses given 6 months apart*)

*School clinic dates are planned to ensure appropriate vaccine dosing intervals are met.

Parents/guardians are requested to:

1. Read the [vaccine fact sheet](#) (also available in [Urdu](#), [Chinese](#), [French](#), [Spanish](#), [Punjabi](#), [Arabic](#), [Hindi](#)) and [FAQs](#) on the page following this letter.
2. Visit halton.ca/immunize to print, complete and sign the Immunization Consent Form **OR** request a paper hardcopy from your child’s school to **complete and sign**, indicating the vaccines you would like your child to receive. **NOTE:** Students who submitted a consent form at the end of Grade 6 (in June 2023) **DO NOT** need to complete and submit another consent form. Public Health has a record of the previously submitted consent forms, which are valid for all required doses of the vaccines.
3. **Return** the completed Immunization Consent Form to your child’s school office by **September 29, 2023**. Only students with a signed consent form will be immunized on the day of the in-school clinic. You will be notified of the in-school clinic date by your child’s school.

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 health care provider, you need to update Halton Region Public Health. Your health care provider’s office does not report these for you. Public Health nurses will review your child’s immunization record and vaccinate only if required.

To report immunizations:



Visit halton.ca/immunize



Call 311



Mail to the Halton Regional Centre, 1151 Bronte Road, Oakville, L6M 3L1

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. 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. Check Halton Region's [immunization web pages](#) on [halton.ca](#) 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 at community clinics. Hepatitis B and HPV vaccines are free of charge until a student graduates Grade 12. To learn more, visit [halton.ca/immunize](#) or call 311.

What happens if my child missed a second dose of hepatitis B or HPV?

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 another vaccine (e.g. COVID-19, Flu) before they can get these vaccines?

Children can receive these school-based vaccines at any time before or after receiving other vaccines, including COVID-19 and Flu vaccine.

Will COVID-19 and/or Flu vaccines be available at these school clinics?

No. Students who wish to receive a COVID-19 and/or Flu vaccine can visit [halton.ca/immunize](#) to find out where they can receive it.

For more Frequently Asked Questions and information, visit [halton.ca/immunize](#).