

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 25, 2022

RE: Public Health resuming school-based immunizations in Halton schools

QUICK FACTS

- Halton Region Public Health is resuming in-school immunization clinics in April 2022 to offer Meningococcal ACYW-135 (Nimenrix®), Hepatitis B (Engerix®) and HPV-9 (Gardasil®) vaccines to **Grade 7 and 8 students**.
- There are approximately 12,000 Grade 7 and 8 students in Halton who are not up to date for their school-based immunizations.
- Special orders for school-based vaccines for Grade 7 (birth year 2009) and Grade 8 (birth year 2008) students will be paused beginning March 28, 2022 and continuing while in-school immunization clinics are operating into June. Please either refer your patients to halton.ca/immunize for an in-school clinic or defer appointment until the summer.
- Special orders for students outside of Grade 7 and 8 will continue to be processed as usual, although processing time may be longer.
- Planning is currently underway for community-based clinics to be held in the summer of 2022 for all eligible students who have missed school-based immunizations due to COVID-19 related closures.

KEY MESSAGES FOR HEALTHCARE PROVIDERS

- If your practice has already ordered and received school-based vaccines for a Grade 7/8 student, please encourage the parents to make an appointment for the student to receive the vaccines already allocated to them in your practice.
- Encourage parents/guardians of patients in Grades 7 & 8 to visit halton.ca/immunize to learn when Public Health nurses will be offering vaccine clinics at their child's school. Information and consent forms will be sent to parents/guardians via their child's school. Consent forms are also available [online](#) and should be returned to the student's school.
- Parents/guardians may contact physicians to schedule immunizations for older students in grades 9-12 who do not currently have access to school clinics.
- If physicians cannot administer school-based vaccines, please direct patients to visit halton.ca/immunize regularly for updates about summer community clinics.

KEY MESSAGES FOR PATIENTS

- Parents/guardians can visit halton.ca/immunize to learn about upcoming school-based vaccine clinics in schools and in the community. They will receive communication from their school with more information.
- Parents/guardians must [report](#) their child's immunization record to Halton Region Public Health when they receive any vaccine(s), unless the vaccine is administered at a Halton Region Public Health clinic.

Please report all suspected/confirmed cases of [Diseases of Public Health Significance](#) 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.

- **School clinics will not be offering COVID-19 vaccines.** Students who are eligible to receive a COVID-19 vaccine can visit halton.ca/COVIDvaccines to find out where they can receive it.
- 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.
- Remote learners will have the opportunity to receive their school-based vaccines at community-based clinics to be held in the summer of 2022.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

[Publicly funded immunization schedule for Ontario](#), Ministry of Health