



PUBLIC HEALTH AND
EMERGENCY SERVICES
Infectious Disease, Sexual Health
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September 28, 2020

Dear Parent or Guardian,

School Immunization Program Update

You are receiving this letter because your child is eligible to start their school program immunizations this school year (20/21), **or** your child started their immunizations but was unable to complete them during the 2019/2020 school year.

All students entering Grade 7 become eligible to receive three publicly funded vaccines. These vaccines are:

- Hepatitis B (Engerix or Recombivax) (2 dose series)
- Meningococcal ACYW-135 (Menactra)
- Human Papillomavirus (HPV) (Gardasil-9) (2 dose series)

The meningococcal ACYW-135 vaccine is required under the authority of the Immunization of School Pupils Act (ISPA). Although the Immunization of School Pupils Act was not enforced during the 2019/2020 school year due to COVID-19, students' immunization records will be reviewed in the future for vaccines required by the Act.

Due to school closures last year as a result of COVID-19, students in Grade 7 and 8 during the 2019/2020 did not finish the immunization series. For the 2020/2021 year, school program vaccines will still not be offered in the schools. Public Health will be holding drive thru immunization clinics for students eligible to receive their school program vaccinations. Clinics will be held at the Medical Centre at the Boardwalk, located at 435 The Boardwalk, Waterloo starting in October. Options will be made available for those unable to attend the drive thru clinics. Details will be provided to you when you receive your phone call to book an appointment as outlined below.

Appointment Bookings

The immunization clinics will be offered first to the Grade 7 and 8 students from 2019/2020 who did not complete their immunizations. Parents/students will be contacted directly to book these appointments between October and December. Please do not call the Public Health office to book your appointment.

Grade 7 students eligible this year (2020-21) for the school program vaccines will be able to book appointment times starting in January, 2021. Clinics will extend through the summer months.

School program vaccines are also available through local health care providers. Please call your health care provider if you wish your student to receive their vaccine using this route.

Details and directions regarding the catch-up clinics and the 2020/2021 school year immunizations are also posted on our website (<https://www.regionofwaterloo.ca/en/health-and-wellness/school-immunization.aspx>).

If your child has received their vaccinations or if you need to access your child's immunization record, please visit our Public Health website (www.regionofwaterloo.ca/updateimmunizations) or call 519-575-4400 ext. 5001.

If you have any questions, please call us at 519-575-4400 ext. 5003.

Thank you,

Kristy Wright,
Manager (Acting) of Vaccine Preventable Diseases