

SCHOOL IMMUNIZATION PROGRAM 2021

Frequently Asked Questions



Why is public health doing a double group of school-based immunizations this fall? (grade 7 and grade 8 students, grade 9 students in some cases)

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the second round of immunization for Grade 7 students was postponed in the 2020-21 school year. Public Health has coordinated clinics this fall to allow for Grade 7 students from the 2020-21 and 2021-22 school years to get their immunizations this fall. Students who missed immunization in 2019-20 may also be offered these immunizations.

How will it work?

You will receive information through your child's school about school-based immunization clinics. If a child is unable to attend these clinics, Public Health will make attempts to immunize your child at follow-up clinics. If this is not possible, your child will receive their immunization at school-based immunization clinics in spring 2022.

Will clinics be held at every school?

Clinics will be held at most schools. If a child misses these clinics, Public Health will make attempts to immunize your child at follow-up clinics. If this is not possible, your child will receive their immunization at school-based immunization clinics in spring 2022.

I am planning to book my child to receive either their first or second dose of COVID-19 vaccine. How does this affect the Grade 7 or 8 immunization schedule?

The National Advisory Committee on Immunization has just released guidance that there is no need to wait between receiving a COVID vaccine and receiving other vaccines, or vice versa. It is safe to receive other vaccines immediately before or after the COVID-19 vaccine, or at the same time. Therefore, your child can receive their school-based immunizations either before or after their COVID-19 vaccine, without any delay.

What if the location/date identified for my child doesn't work?

If a child misses these clinics, Public Health will make attempts to immunize your child at follow-up clinics. If this is not possible, your child will receive their immunization at school-based immunization clinics in spring 2022.

Will the clinics be safe to attend? What about COVID-19?

Each clinic will be setup to follow guidelines that help reduce and prevent the spread of COVID-19 and other respiratory viruses. This includes everything from how the physical space is set up with appropriate spacing to cleaning protocols to how many people we have in the space at a time. There will be staff and signs at each clinic to help everyone understand where they need to be and what they need to do.

As the parent/guardian, can I attend the clinic with my child?

Normally parents/guardian do not attend a clinic within the school; however if your child needs support in some way, please check with the nurses/school and arrangements can be made.

Should my child wear a non-medical mask to the clinic because of COVID-19?

Non-medical masks are required in schools until October 12, and masks continue to be recommended, as they can help reduce the spread of COVID-19. Guidelines around handwashing, physical distancing and cleaning will also be followed.



What should I do if my child has symptoms for COVID-19 or is not feeling well on the day of the clinic?

If your child is not feeling well, they should not attend school. Other arrangements can be made to be immunized at a later date. If your child has symptoms that could be COVID-19, they should also be tested.

How long will the clinics take?

Our goal is to have students at the clinic only for the time needed to complete the process (approx. 30 minutes, however this could vary). This includes screening, getting the immunizations and then waiting in recovery, where we monitor students.

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