

School-based Immunizations

Every year, Halton Region Public Health provides immunization clinics to vaccinate grade 7 students. The following vaccines are offered:

- **Meningococcal (Men-C-ACYW):** one dose;
- **Hepatitis B:** two doses given six months apart; and
- **HPV-9:** two doses given six months apart.

Meningococcal disease is an infection that is usually caused by five different groups of bacteria that infect the blood or fluid around the brain and spinal cord. It is a rare disease, but symptoms can appear and become life threatening very quickly. It can lead to permanent hearing loss, brain damage or loss of a limb.

It spreads by direct contact with saliva or mucus from an infected person (e.g. kissing, sharing drinks or eating utensils). Infected people can spread the disease for seven days before becoming sick.

The Men-C-ACYW vaccine provides protection against 4 out of the 5 groups of bacteria that cause infection of the blood and fluid around the brain and spinal cord. The vaccine is safe, is 80-85% effective and is **required for school attendance in Ontario**.

Hepatitis B is a very contagious virus that attacks the liver and can cause liver disease and liver cancer. There is no cure. Most people get better, but others will stay infected and carry the virus in their body for the rest of their lives.

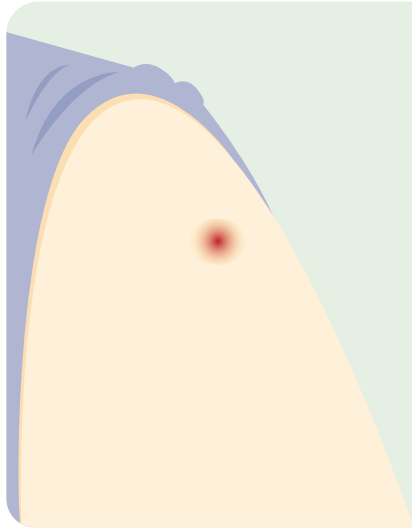
It spreads by direct contact with the blood or body fluids of an infected person, even if they do not look or feel sick. It can spread through: direct contact with blood or open sores; sharing razors, syringes, or toothbrushes; unprotected sex; mother to baby during birth.

The hepatitis B vaccine is safe and is 95-100% effective when all doses are given. Protection lasts at least 30 years.

Human Papillomavirus (HPV) is a very common virus that can cause cancer and genital warts. There is no cure, and without immunization, it is estimated that 3 out of 4 sexually active Canadians will get HPV in their lifetime. Most infected people don't know they have it because they don't develop any symptoms, so they pass it on to others without knowing.

It spreads by sexual contact including vaginal, anal and oral sex.

The HPV-9 vaccine protects against nine types of HPV. It is safe and is almost 100% effective when all doses are given. The best way to prevent HPV infection is to get vaccinated before having sex for the first time.



What should I expect after vaccination?

On the arm where you got the vaccine:

- Pain, redness, or swelling
- Note: Delayed pain, redness, and swelling can occur many days following vaccination. It is usually not serious and will clear up on its own.

Throughout the rest of your body:

- Fever
- Chills
- Tiredness
- Headache
- Muscle/joint pain

When to call your doctor

Allergic reactions to the vaccine and other serious side effects are rare. However, symptoms may occur within a week after receiving the vaccine. Contact your doctor if you develop any of the symptoms below. If your symptoms are severe, call 911.

- hives
- swelling of the face or mouth
- trouble breathing
- very pale colour and serious drowsiness
- high fever (over 40°C)
- convulsions or seizures



These vaccines are publicly-funded and are at no cost to recipients. Students can still be immunized if they do not have an Ontario Health Card.

Please do not delay getting immunized. Completing all routine immunizations helps protect you, your family and other residents against disease. Some vaccines are publicly-funded for a limited time, and the student may only be eligible until a certain age.

For more information please visit halton.ca/immunize, call 311, or talk to your health care provider.

Already got the vaccine?

Students may have already received one or more of these vaccines. Ensure that you have reported all vaccines to Public Health by visiting halton.ca/immunize or by calling 311.

