

A Parent's Guide to **Immunization**



Immunization: Help Your Body Help Itself

Immunization is one of the safest ways to protect you and your child from illness associated with vaccine preventable diseases. Only after many years of research is a vaccine approved for use. Immunization helps save lives.

Why?

Immunization can help the body fight serious disease. Immunization activates the body's natural defences so it can build up resistance to diseases which might otherwise require medication or more serious medical intervention.

If a child is **not** immunized, they could get very sick and may need to be hospitalized. By keeping our immunization rates high, we are helping to protect the health of children and our community.

When?

Following the Publicly Funded Immunization Schedule in Ontario is the best way to protect the health of children and our community. These vaccines are considered so important that they are provided for free to all Ontarians.

The Immunization of School Pupils Act (ISPA)

All children attending school are legally required to be immunized against certain preventable diseases, unless a valid exemption due to medical, conscience or religious reasons is provided. See the Publicly Funded Immunization Schedule (next page) for which vaccines are required, and when to get them.

Important

York Region Public Health collects and reviews the immunization records of all students to ensure each child is immunized and their records are up to date. Doctors or schools do not provide this information to York Region Public Health. **You need to inform York Region Public Health when your child has received a vaccination.**



Publicly Funded Immunization Schedule in Ontario

Vaccine	Age of Child								
	2 months	4 months	6 months	12+ months	15 months	18 months	4-6 years	Grade 7	14-16 years
	Each colour represents vaccinations given in one needle								
Diphtheria *	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓		✓
Tetanus *	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓		✓
Pertussis (Whooping Cough) *	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓		✓
Polio *	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓		
Haemophilus influenzae type B (Hib)	✓	✓	✓			✓			
Pneumococcal	✓	✓		✓					
Rotavirus	✓	✓ ¹							
Measles *				✓			✓		
Mumps *				✓			✓		
Rubella *				✓			✓		
Varicella (Chickenpox) **					✓		✓		
Meningococcal Disease: *									
• Type C				✓					
• Type A, C, Y, W-135								✓	
Hepatitis B								✓	
Human papillomavirus (HPV)								✓	
Influenza (flu) – Everyone six months of age and older should get the flu shot every year									
<p>✓ Recommended time of immunization</p> <p>* Mandatory per <i>Immunization of School Pupils Act</i> (ISPA). Students are required to have these immunizations or a signed exemption to attend school in Ontario.</p> <p>** Mandatory per ISPA for those born January 1, 2010 or after</p>									

Learn more

To learn more about immunization, vaccines and requirements for students visit: york.ca/immunization

Update York Region Public Health on your child's immunization status in one of the following ways:

- Online at: eimmunization.york.ca
- Fax documents to: **905-895-6066** or **1-866-258-2026**
- Call York Region Public Health at: **1-877-464-9675** ext. **73456**
- Mail immunization information to: Immunization Services, Box 147, Newmarket, ON L3Y 6Z1

Community and Health Services

Public Health

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