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Dear Parents/Guardians in Toronto private schools,

**Re: Back-to-School Immunization Information: School Immunization Program (SIP)**

Toronto Public Health (TPH) offers free hepatitis B (Hep B), human papillomavirus (HPV) and meningococcal vaccines to grades 7 and 8 students in schools across the city through the [School Immunization Program \(SIP\)](#).

If TPH is hosting an immunization clinic at your child's school, you will receive a clinic notice and consent package with information about the vaccines and clinic date.

If TPH is not hosting an immunization clinic at your child's school, students in grades 7-12 who have not yet received these vaccines can receive them through their health care provider or by appointment at a [TPH community clinic](#). Please note that once students graduate from high school, they are no longer eligible for these free, publicly funded vaccines.

For more information, visit the [School Immunization Program](#) webpage, talk to your health care provider, or make a consultation appointment at the [VaxFacts clinic](#) to speak to a doctor over the phone. You can also call TPH at 416-338-7600, Monday to Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Service is available in multiple languages.

**Immunization of School Pupils Act (ISPA)**

Under Ontario's [Immunization of School Pupil Act \(ISPA\)](#), all students between the ages of four and 17 years in public and private schools are required to be up to date with certain immunizations under ISPA including meningococcal, measles, mumps, rubella, diphtheria, tetanus, polio, pertussis (whooping cough), and for students born in 2010 or later varicella (chicken pox). Hep B and HPV vaccines are optional but are highly recommended as they prevent several types of illnesses including cancer. If a student is not up to date with the required vaccines or does not have a [valid exemption](#), the student can be suspended from school for 20 school days.

Vaccines required under ISPA are available through primary health care providers or at a [TPH community clinic](#).

Parents/guardians or students 16 years of age and older are responsible for reporting students' immunizations to TPH every time the student gets a vaccine. Health care providers do not report vaccines to TPH. Student vaccines can be reported online using [Immunization Connect Ontario \(ICON\)](#). Other ways to report include by mail or by phone. Parents who are unsure

about their child's vaccination history, have records in other languages, cannot find their child's records, or are unsure about what to do next, can call TPH at 416-338-7600 for assistance.

For more information, including an ICON how-to video or details regarding ISPA exemptions, visit [toronto.ca/StudentVaccines](https://toronto.ca/StudentVaccines). Customer service representatives are available via [immunization@toronto.ca](mailto:immunization@toronto.ca) or 416-338-7600, Monday to Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Service is available in multiple languages.

### **Where to get vaccinated**

Make an appointment with your health care provider. You also can book an appointment for your child at one of TPH's community clinics:

- Etobicoke Civic Centre: 399 The West Mall
- Scarborough Civic Centre: 150 Borough Drive
- North York Civic Centre: 5100 Yonge Street

### **Steps to book a TPH clinic appointment:**

Students who are not currently up to date with their immunizations should:

- Review the [Childhood Vaccines Quick Reference Guide](#).
- Book an appointment at a TPH community clinic by visiting [TPHBookings.ca](https://TPHBookings.ca).
- Bring a copy of their yellow immunization card and health card to the clinic (if available).
- Sign the consent form at the clinic. Students under 14 years of age require a parent or legal guardian to sign the consent form. Those aged 14 and older can consent to receiving a vaccine.
- Wear a loose-sleeved shirt and eat something before the clinic.
- Do not attend the clinic if sick.

### **Already Vaccinated?**

If a student has received one or more vaccines from their health care provider, please [report the students' vaccination\(s\)](#) to TPH using [\(ICON\)](#). Health care providers do not report vaccines to TPH. If a student is unsure if they are already vaccinated with the required vaccines, they should bring a copy of their yellow immunization card and health card to the community clinic. Nurses will assess their vaccine records and provide any missing vaccines.

Thank you for your ongoing support to keep all students healthy.

Sincerely,

Dr. Vinita Dubey



Associate Medical Officer of Health