



Childhood Immunization Records

York Region Community and Health Services often responds to inquiries from child care centres about what their role is in collecting and processing the immunization records of their clientele.



Below are answers to frequently asked questions.

Are child care centres required to collect childhood immunization records?

The Ontario *Day Nurseries Act* (R.R.O. 1990, Reg. 262, subsection 33) states that day care operators must ensure that children under their care are immunized as recommended by the local medical officer of health, unless documentation of a religious or conscientious objection, a medical exemption or proof of prior immunity has been submitted. The best way to ensure this is by collecting immunization records for each attending child.

Why is it important for children enrolled in child care to have up-to-date immunizations?

Keeping accurate and up-to-date immunization information on children in your facility is an effective way to protect them from vaccine-preventable diseases such as measles.

Immunizations are also a very effective way to protect preschool children against some of the diseases which can spread quickly and easily in child care settings. When children have received the recommended immunizations available through Ontario's publicly funded immunization program, infectious diseases such as chickenpox are less likely to develop and spread, and children stay healthier.

Are Ontario child care centres required to provide immunization records to the local public health unit?

Currently, York Region Community and Health Services only collect immunization records for school-aged children. However, York Region is working with the Ministry of Children and Youth Services to develop a strategy for collecting immunization information from child care facilities operating within York Region.

The proposed strategy includes asking all York Region child care centres to provide up-to-date immunization information on their existing clientele. Once collected, this information will be inputted and maintained in the provincial database that contains the immunization information on all children attending school in Ontario.

This database will enable public health staff to assess immunization coverage in these children and identify those who are not immunized and therefore at risk of acquiring certain infections. Further information regarding this initiative will be included in an up-coming newsletter. For more information about the Immunization Program, please call York Region **Health Connection** at 1-800-361-5653.





Life is a long journey...keep them safe

According to Health Canada, motor vehicle collisions are the leading cause of death and injury for children aged one to nine.



Legislation passed in September 2005 requires all child care providers to use car seats and booster seats when travelling with babies and children. You are also in an excellent position to promote car seat and booster seat safety to parents/caregivers when they are dropping off and picking up their children.

The *Highway Traffic Act* requires a car seat with a harnessing system for a baby/child until they reach a minimum of 40 lbs (18kg). After 40lbs, a booster seat is required until at least one of the following is reached: a standing height of 4'9" (145 cm), 80 lbs (36 kg), or eight years of age.

Tips for CAR SEAT use:

- Make sure infants are rear-facing until all 3 criteria are met: a minimum of 22 lbs, can pull up to a stand unassisted, and are one year old
- Depending on the year of the vehicle, car seats can be installed with either the new LATCH system or the vehicle seat belt - check your vehicle manual for the option(s) available to you
- You should only be able to put one finger between the shoulder harness and the child's collarbone
- Check the chest clip - it should be at the child's armpit level

Tips for BOOSTER SEAT use:

- High back boosters and backless boosters must be used with a lap/shoulder seat belt (With the backless style, it is important to ensure the vehicle seat and/or head rest are high enough to provide head and neck protection for a child)
- Be aware seat belt adjusters are not regulated for use in Canada; in fact, crash tests in the U.S. have shown they increase the likelihood of injury or death

Always refer to your vehicle manual and the car seat/booster seat manuals before installing and using a car seat or booster seat.



For more information, please call
Health Connection at

1-800-363-5653