



Immunization of School Pupils Act R.S.O. 1990

Information Sheet for School Administrators

The purpose of the Act is to increase the protection of the health of children against serious diseases that include diphtheria, measles, mumps, rubella, poliomyelitis and tetanus. Under Section 3(1) of the Act, it is the duty of the parent to ensure that their child (the pupil) is fully immunized against each of these diseases.

Three exceptions exist under these sections that provide for the following:

1. a medical exemption completed and signed by a physician
2. a statement of conscience objection to immunization (by affidavit)
3. a statement of religious belief against immunization (by affidavit)

All three exceptions require the appropriate forms be filed with the Medical Officer of Health.

The Act states that every person who contravenes section 3(1) is guilty of an offence and on conviction is liable to a fine of not more than \$1,000.

How is Legislation Enforced?

York Region Health Services is required by law to keep and check immunization information for all children attending school in the Region. This way, we can control the spread of disease. Records that are incomplete or not up-to-date are identified, and families receive a communication from Immunization Services requesting missing information. Parents have approximately 2 to 3 weeks to update their child's record.

What Happens Next?

If the information has not been received, the Medical Officer of Health sends a written order to the principal of the school to suspend from attendance a pupil named in the order. A parent of the pupil is served with a copy of the order. Written reasons for suspension of the pupil are included in the order.

How Long Does the Suspension Order Stay in Effect?

The term of suspension is twenty school days and can be repeated until the missing information is received. The term of suspension ends when the missing information is provided to the Medical Officer of Health and a rescind order is issued.

What Happens During an Outbreak of Disease or Risk of an Outbreak in the School?

Incomplete student records are identified and under Section 12 of the Act, the Medical Officer of Health by a written order may require a principal to exclude from school a pupil named in the order. The order remains in force until rescinded in writing by the Medical Officer of Health.