

## Grade 7-12 School Immunization Clinics: Frequently Asked Questions

### 1. Is a signature from the parent/legal guardian required on the consent form? Where can I get a consent form?

- Students in grades 7 and 8 require a parent/legal guardian to complete and sign the immunization consent form. Although parents/legal guardians can complete the consent form on behalf of a high school student, students in grades 9 to 12, if capable, can complete and sign the consent form themselves to proceed with vaccination.

- [CLICK HERE TO ACCESS ELECTRONIC CONSENT FORM LINK](#)**

### 2. When does the consent form need to be submitted? Will late submissions be accepted?

- Deadline to submit an electronic consent is **September 20, 2022**. Students may still be immunized at the school clinic if the consent is received after the deadline with priority given to those students that submitted a consent form prior to the deadline.

### 3. My child is very nervous. Is there anything I can do to prepare my child for the immunization?

- Visit [What to Expect at an Immunization Clinic](#) section for tips on how to reduce pain and anxiety about getting needles.

### 4. Is it safe to receive more than one vaccine at a time?

- Yes. Your child's immune system can easily handle many vaccines at once. Receiving multiple vaccines is safe, convenient, and ensures the best protection for your child at the earliest age possible.

### 5. What should I expect after the immunization?

- Students are observed by a nurse in the clinic for 15 minutes after receiving an immunization. All usual activities, including physical activity and sports may be resumed after being immunized. The most common side effects are mild, short lived and can include: redness, swelling, and discomfort at the injection site. Severe side effects are rare

### 6. I'm not sure if my child has an allergy to the items listed on the consent form (aluminum, latex, yeast, thimerosal, sodium chloride, L-histidine, polysorbate 80 or borate.) Where are they are found?

- Latex can be found in rubber gloves, balloons or bandages
- Yeast can be found in bread, cereal or cookies
- Some childhood vaccines contain aluminum, thimerosal, sodium chloride (salt), L-histidine, polysorbate 80, trometamol, sucrose and borate

**Children with a known allergy to these items should not be vaccinated at school. Consult with your health care provider if you are concerned your child may be allergic to any of these items.**

### 7. Who should I contact if my child previously received this vaccine?

- To update your child's immunization record contact York Region Public Health at 1-877-464-9675 ext. 73456 or visit [eimmunization.york.ca](http://eimmunization.york.ca)

**8. Are these vaccines mandatory?**

- Meningococcal ACYW-135 vaccination is strongly recommended and is required for school attendance as outlined in the Immunization of School Pupils Act unless a valid exemption is on file.
- Hepatitis B and Human Papillomavirus are strongly recommended for students, though they are not mandatory for school attendance. These vaccines are safe and effective for protecting your child against infectious diseases and associated severe health complications including cancers.

**9. What type of safety measures are in place to minimize risk of COVID-19 transmission while attending the school clinic?**

- York Region Public Health continues to require the use of masks by students/attendees/staff and visitors in the immunization clinic. If your child does not have a mask at school on clinic day, one will be provided. Mask exemptions will be accommodated.
- Students will remain in their class cohorts whenever possible and will remain in small groups to minimize the number of students in the clinic at any one time.
- For the most up to date recommendations for schools, please visit [Staying Safe at School](#)

**10. My child recently received the COVID-19 vaccine. Are they safe to receive these vaccines now?**

- For students aged 5 years and older, they can safely receive the school-based vaccines at the same time or anytime before or after receipt of the COVID-19 vaccine.

**11. How can my child catch up on other routine immunizations, aside from the vaccines offered in school?**

- Children should receive overdue routine immunizations at the earliest opportunity. Routine immunizations are available through your health care provider and are critically important for prevention against a number of infectious diseases. This can include immunizations that are required for school such as tetanus, diphtheria, pertussis, polio, chickenpox, measles, mumps, and rubella. If you are unsure if your child is due for any of these vaccines, check their immunization record (yellow immunization card), speak to your health care provider or call York Region Public Health at 1-877-464-9675. If your child has received vaccines through your health care provider, see question #7.

**12. How long are students eligible for these student vaccinations?**

- Students in grades 7 to 12 are eligible for free doses of Hepatitis B, Meningococcal ACYW-135 and HPV with all doses of Hepatitis B and HPV vaccine to be completed prior to August 31<sup>st</sup> of the graduating year. Students who do not receive Meningococcal ACYW-135 vaccine while in grades 7-12 remain eligible after graduation until a dose is received. In addition, male and female students who graduated high school in 2022 along with female students who graduated high school in 2020 or 2021 are eligible for free doses of HPV vaccine up until August 31, 2023. Once the period of eligibility passes for Hepatitis B or HPV vaccine, individuals would need to purchase doses of vaccine to be vaccinated at their health care provider's office. If a student needs 3 doses of HPV vaccine or Hepatitis B vaccine but only 2 doses can be received through the school immunization clinics, the additional dose can be received by booking an appointment at one of York Region Public Health's [community catch up clinics](#) within the period of vaccine eligibility.

**13. Who can I contact if my question is not covered here?**

- Visit [york.ca/immunization](http://york.ca/immunization) for more information or call York Region Public Health at 1-877-464-9675.