

Information Sheet for School Administrators

Immunization of School Pupils Act 1990

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 is fully immunized against each of these diseases.

Three immunization exemptions exist under this section, including a:

- Medical exemption
- Statement of conscience belief affidavit
- Statement of religious belief affidavit

All three exemptions are to be completed and submitted to York Region Public 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 Public Health is required by law to collect and review immunization records for all children attending school in York Region. If there are incomplete or not up-to-date immunization records, parents/guardians will be notified to provide the required information. Parents/guardians have approximately four weeks to update their child's immunization information.

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 a student from attending school. Also, the parent/guardian of the student is served a copy of the order. The order outlines the reasons for suspension.

How Long Does the Suspension Order Stay in Effect?

The term of suspension is 20 school days and can be repeated until the missing information is received. The term of suspension ends when the missing information is provided to York Region Public Health and a rescind order is issued.

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

Incomplete immunization 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 a student from school. The order remains in force until rescinded in writing by the Medical Officer of Health.