

School-based Vaccine Clinics - 2023/2024 School Year

Dear parents/guardians of current grade 6 students,

Halton Region Public Health provides immunization clinics for grade 7 students at public, private, Catholic and French schools. In preparation for the 2023/2024 school year, consent form packages are being sent to families with students **currently in grade 6** who will become eligible for school-based vaccines in the upcoming school year. Public health nurses will be visiting schools across Halton in fall 2023 and spring 2024. The following vaccines will be offered:

Vaccines available at school clinics	Requirement or recommendation
Meningococcal Conjugate-ACYW-135	Required for school attendance (1 dose)
Human Papillomavirus – HPV	Recommended (2 doses given 6 months apart)
Hepatitis B – HB	Recommended (2 doses given 6 months apart)

Parents/guardians are requested to:

1. **Read** the [School-based Immunizations fact sheet](#) (available at halton.ca/immunize, with translated versions available in [Urdu](#), [Chinese](#), [French](#), [Spanish](#), [Punjabi](#), [Arabic](#) and [Hindi](#)) and [FAQs](#) on the page following this letter.
2. **Complete and sign** the School Vaccination Consent Form indicating the vaccines you would like your child to receive. This consent form will be provided by your child’s school, and is also available on the Region’s [School-based Immunizations webpage](#) at halton.ca.
3. **Return** the completed and signed paper consent form to your child’s school office by **June 16, 2023**. Any consent forms completed after this date should be submitted to the school at the start of your child’s grade 7 school year. Only eligible students with a signed consent form will be immunized on the day of the in-school clinic. You will be notified of the immunization clinic date by your child’s school.

Nurses immunizing at the school clinics will assess students’ immunization records and offer all vaccines for which they are [eligible](#), and have parental consent to receive.

Update your child’s immunization record: Your child may have already received one or more of the vaccines listed above. Every time your child gets an immunization from their health care provider, you need to update Halton Region Public Health. Your health care provider does not report immunizations to Public Health. Public Health nurses will review your child’s immunization record and vaccinate only if required.

To report immunizations:



Visit halton.ca/immunize



Call 311

Frequently Asked Questions

How many times will Public Health nurses be visiting my child's school in the school year?

School-based immunization clinics occur twice in the school year—once in the fall and once in the spring.

Why are these vaccines being offered now?

These vaccines are routinely offered to grade 7 students in schools as part of Halton's regular immunization programming.

What happens if I don't want this vaccination for my child?

Meningococcal ACWY-135 is a *required* vaccine as per the *Immunization of School Pupils Act* (ISPA). If you choose not to vaccinate your child, you will need to obtain a vaccine exemption from Halton Region Public Health in order for your child to continue attending school. Check Halton Region's [immunization web pages](#) on [halton.ca](#) for updates.

The human papillomavirus vaccine and hepatitis B vaccine are strongly *recommended*, but they are not required for school attendance. If a student does not receive these vaccines, they do not require a vaccine exemption.

What happens if my child missed a second dose of the hepatitis B or HPV vaccine?

Students can still catch-up on the second doses of both hepatitis B and HPV vaccines without restarting the vaccine series. The second dose is recommended to be given a minimum of six months after the first dose, however having a longer than recommended interval between vaccine doses will still provide the same immunity once the series is complete.

Is it safe to get more than one vaccine at the same time?

Yes. These vaccines have been offered together safely for many years, along with other routine vaccinations in childhood. Getting more than one vaccine at the same time ensures students get the best protection against serious diseases earlier rather than later.

If my child received the Twinrix® vaccine (Hepatitis A and B) do they still need to receive a Hepatitis B vaccine at school?

If a student has received a complete and valid Twinrix® vaccine series, they do not need another Hepatitis B vaccine. If they did not complete all doses of the Twinrix® vaccine series, they are encouraged to complete it with their primary health care provider to ensure protection against both Hepatitis A and B. Please ensure your child's immunization record is updated with their Twinrix vaccine series by visiting [halton.ca/immunize](#).

Can I receive these vaccines from my primary health care provider?

Yes, your primary health care provider may be able to provide school-based vaccines. They are free as long as your child is eligible for a publicly funded dose. These vaccines will have to be ordered for your child, so please contact your primary health care provider if you are interested in this option.

My child is nervous about receiving vaccines. What can I do?

Before the clinic, talk to your child about the vaccines they will be receiving. Discuss the importance of vaccines to protect them from certain diseases. Ask your child about any concerns they may have. Visit the School-based Immunizations page on [halton.ca/immunize](#) for information about preparing your child for school vaccinations.

For more information, please visit [halton.ca/immunize](#).

Regional Municipality of Halton

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