

Thursday, September 16, 2021

Dear Parents/Guardians and Halton Students in Grades 7-12,

Halton Region Public Health is reaching out to share some important information about upcoming immunization clinics and how to keep up-to-date with school-based vaccines. School-based vaccines are non-COVID vaccines that are usually provided to students in the school setting during their grade 7 year. Due to pandemic-related disruptions, students may have missed the opportunity to receive these vaccines over the past two school years.

These vaccines will not be provided in the school setting this fall. Instead, Halton Region Public Health will be offering the school-based vaccines by appointment only to eligible students in grades 7-12 (born 2004-2009) at community clinics in each municipality. Additionally, there will be appointments available for eligible former students born in 2002 and 2003 to catch-up on vaccines they may have missed. The school-based vaccines include:

- [Hepatitis B \(ENGERIX®-B\)](#) – recommended vaccine
- [Human Papillomavirus \(GARDASIL®9\)](#) – recommended vaccine
- [Meningococcal ACYW-135 \(NIMENRIX®\)](#) – ISPA required vaccine, see below

For more information about these vaccines, please see the School-based Immunizations Fact Sheet located on [Halton's Grade 7 School-based Immunizations web page](#).

Please note: COVID-19 vaccines are separate from the School-Based Immunization Program.

Immunization appointments for school-based vaccines will be made available in several blocks of time. The first block of appointments to be released will be for Monday, September 20, 2021 through Friday, October 8, 2021, with additional blocks of time expected to be released after the Thanksgiving weekend. Clinics will be located at the following community venues:

- Gellert Community Centre (Halton Hills)
- First Ontario Arts Centre (Milton)
- Peter Gilgan YMCA (Oakville)
- Gary Allan Learning Centre (Burlington)

To book an appointment, or learn more about clinic eligibility, locations, or schedules, visit [Halton's Grade 7 School-based Immunizations web page](#) or call 311. Please bring any immunization records you may have for the student to the appointment, where Public Health staff will fully assess the student's vaccination history.

Your child(ren) may also be able to receive these vaccines through your primary health care provider **at a later date**. Please note, while these community clinics are available, your primary care provider will not be able to give your child(ren) these vaccines. Please contact your primary health care provider for more information, and remember to [update your child's immunization record online](#) after they receive any vaccine(s). Please note, the COVID-19 vaccine(s) DO NOT need to be reported.



Health Department
Healthy Schools & Communities
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The *Immunization of School Pupils Act* (ISPA) requires that children and adolescents attending primary or secondary school be appropriately immunized against designated diseases, unless they have a valid exemption. As a result of the pandemic, Halton Region Public Health and the Medical Officer of Health WILL NOT be enforcing ISPA in the 2021/2022 school year. It is highly recommended your child(ren) stay up-to-date with their routine immunization(s). Please contact your primary care provider for more information.

If your child(ren) does not have a primary health care provider, visit [halton.ca](https://www.halton.ca) for a list of [Halton Physicians Accepting New Patients](#).

You can [review and update your child's immunization record online](#). To learn more about immunization, visit [halton.ca/immunize](https://www.halton.ca/immunize) or call 311.

Sincerely,

Halton Region Public Health

Regional Municipality of Halton

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