

Routine School Immunizations

Peel Public Health is providing routine school immunizations to eligible students in grades 7 and older in school and community clinics. The vaccines offered are **Meningococcal-C-ACYW**, **Hepatitis B (Hep B)**, and **Human Papillomavirus (HPV)**.

These vaccines are all free for students. Some vaccines are publicly funded for a limited time, and the student may only be eligible until a certain age. Students can still be immunized if they do not have an Ontario Health Card.



Meningococcal disease is an infection usually caused by five different groups of bacteria that infect the blood or fluid around the brain and spinal cord. It is a rare disease, but symptoms can become life-threatening very quickly. Complications from the disease can lead to brain damage, permanent hearing loss, seizures, amputation of a limb or death.

It spreads by direct contact with saliva or mucus from an infected person, which can happen by kissing, sharing drinks, utensils, or toothbrushes, etc.

The Men-C-ACYW vaccine (Nimenrix®, Menactra®, Menveo™) provides protection against four groups of bacteria that cause infection. The vaccine is safe and 80–85% effective.

A single dose vaccine is required for school attendance in Ontario unless the student has a valid exemption. Men-C-ACYW vaccine is recommended for all adolescents, even if they have previously been vaccinated as an infant or toddler.



Hepatitis B is a very contagious virus that attacks the liver and can cause liver disease and liver cancer. There is no cure. Most people get better, but others will stay infected and carry the virus in their body for the rest of their lives.

It spreads by direct contact with the blood or body fluids of an infected person, even if they do not look or feel sick. It can spread through sharing razors, needles, or toothbrushes; unprotected sex; and improperly cleaned tattoo or spa equipment.

The hepatitis B vaccine (Recombivax HB® or Engerix®-B) is safe and is over 95% effective when all doses are given.

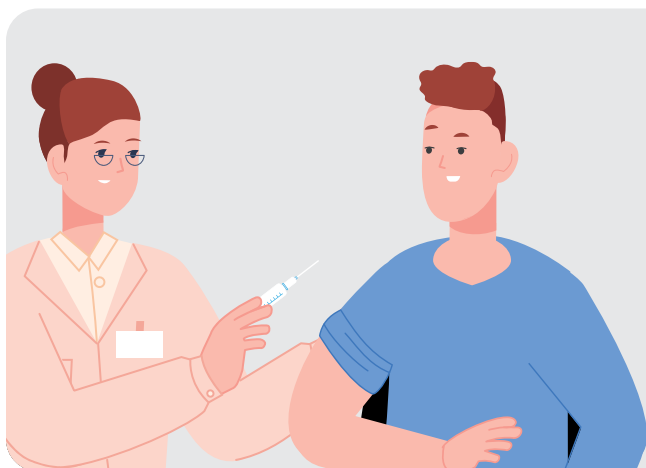
Students, ages 11–15 need 2 doses, given 6 months apart. Students with a weak immune system, or ages 16 and older will need a third dose.

Human Papillomavirus is a very common virus that can cause cancers of the mouth, head and neck, cervix and genitals. Many people do not know they are infected and never develop symptoms, so they can pass it onto others without knowing. There is no cure, and without immunization, it is estimated that 3 out of 4 sexually active Canadians will get HPV in their lifetime.

It spreads by skin-to-skin contact in the genital area or during sex. The best way to prevent HPV infection is to get vaccinated before having sex for the first time.

The HPV-9 vaccine (Gardasil®-9) is safe and over 95% effective when all doses are given. It prevents infection against seven types of the virus which may lead to cancer and two types that cause genital warts.

Students under 15 years of age need 2 doses, given 6 months apart. Students with a weak immune system or 15 years and older will need a third dose.



What can I expect after receiving the vaccine(s)?

- Most people have no problems after getting immunized. Some may have a sore arm or redness, swelling or itchiness at the needle site.
- Occasionally, tiredness, headache, dizziness, fainting, nausea and a slight fever may develop.



When to call your doctor:

- Allergic and severe reactions after vaccinations are very rare. Side effects may occur within approximately a week after immunization.
- Contact your doctor and Peel Public Health at 905-799-7700 if you experience any of the symptoms below. If your symptoms are severe, call 911.
 - trouble breathing
 - swelling of the face or mouth
 - hives
 - very pale colour or drowsiness
 - seizures
 - fever over 40°C

For more information visit peelregion.ca/immunize or call Peel Public Health at 905-799-7700.

