

## Immunization Information for Grade 7 Students

2024/2025 School Year

Dear parents/guardians of students in Grade 7,

Halton Region Public Health provides immunization clinics for Grade 7 students at public, private, Catholic and French schools.

From September 30 to December 13, 2024, and again from March 31 to June 16, 2025, public health nurses will be visiting schools across Halton to offer the following vaccines to eligible Grade 7 students who have a consent form signed by a parent or legal guardian:

| Vaccines available at school clinics             | Requirement or recommendation               |
|--|---|
| <a href="#">Meningococcal Conjugate-ACYW-135</a> | Required for school attendance (1 dose)     |
| <a href="#">Human Papillomavirus – HPV</a>       | Recommended (2 doses given 6 months apart*) |
| <a href="#">Hepatitis B – HB</a>                 | Recommended (2 doses given 6 months apart*) |

\*School clinic dates are planned to ensure appropriate vaccine dosing intervals are met.

### Parents/guardians are requested to:

1. **Read** the [vaccine fact sheet](#) (also available in [Urdu](#), [Chinese](#), [French](#), [Spanish](#), [Punjabi](#), [Arabic](#), [Hindi](#)) and FAQs on the page following this letter.
2. **Complete** the paper consent form provided by the school, indicating the vaccines you would like your child to receive. If you do not receive a consent form from the school, you may print and complete the attached copy.
3. **Return** the completed consent form to your child's school by **Friday, September 13, 2024**. Only students with a signed consent form will be immunized on the day of the clinic. You will be notified of the clinic date by your child's school. Clinic dates can also be found on [Halton's School-based Immunizations webpage](#).

**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's office does not report these for you. Public Health nurses will review your child's immunization record and vaccinate only if required.

To report immunizations:



Visit [halton.ca/immunize](https://halton.ca/immunize)



Call 311



Mail to the Halton Regional Centre, 1151 Bronte Road, Oakville, L6M 3L1

## Frequently Asked Questions

### Why are these vaccines being offered now?

These vaccines are routinely offered to Grade 7 students in schools as part of Halton Region Public Health's regular immunization programming. Completing all routine immunizations helps protect students, families and the community against disease, reducing unnecessary medical visits, hospitalizations and further strain on the health care system.

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

Meningococcal ACYW-135 is a *required* vaccine as per the [Immunization of School Pupils Act \(ISPA\)](#). If your child does not receive this vaccine, you will need to obtain a vaccine exemption from Halton Region Public Health for your child to continue attending school. To learn more, visit [halton.ca/immunize](https://halton.ca/immunize) or call 311.

The human papillomavirus (HPV) and hepatitis B vaccines are *recommended* for students but are not mandatory for school attendance. Therefore, a vaccine exemption is not required for students who do not receive these vaccines.

If you choose not to vaccinate and later decide to do so after school clinics have taken place, your child can receive these vaccines through their primary care provider or at community clinics. Hepatitis B and HPV vaccines are offered free of charge until the student graduates from Grade 12. To learn more, visit [halton.ca/immunize](https://halton.ca/immunize) or call 311.

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

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

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

Yes. These vaccines have been safely administered together for many years, along with other routine childhood vaccinations. Receiving multiple vaccines at once ensures that students are protected against serious diseases as early as possible.

### What can I do if my child is nervous about receiving vaccines?

Talk to your child about the vaccines they will be receiving and explain that vaccines protect them from certain diseases. Encourage your child to share any concerns they may have. Review and practice helpful ways to stay calm (e.g. count to ten, take slow and deep breaths, look away from the needle). Visit [immunize.ca](https://immunize.ca) for more information about [preparing your child for their vaccinations](#).

### Will the COVID-19 vaccine be available at school clinics?

No. Visit [halton.ca/immunize](https://halton.ca/immunize) to find out where your child can receive a COVID-19 vaccine.

For more Frequently Asked Questions and information, visit [halton.ca/immunize](https://halton.ca/immunize).