

School Immunization Clinics for Students in Grades 7-12

Parent/guardian,

York Region Public Health (YRPH) is offering immunizations for hepatitis B, human papillomavirus (HPV) and meningococcal disease at no cost to Grade 7-12 students at your child’s school this year. The **schedule** for school clinics can be found [here](#). The following table provides information on your child’s eligibility for vaccines. YRPH will be offering clinics in your school in the Fall 2022 and again in the Spring 2023.

Vaccine Eligibility details			
Student catch-up vaccine	Eligible students	Fall 2022	Spring 2023
Meningococcal (Men-ACYW135) vaccine The vaccine is strongly recommended and is also required for school attendance in Ontario	Grades 7-12	Dose 1	
Human Papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine This vaccine is strongly recommended		Dose 1	Dose 2*
Hepatitis B vaccine This vaccine is strongly recommended			

*These vaccines may require a 3-dose schedule depending on age of the student.

Please complete a consent form by September 20, 2022 for your child to be immunized at school:



1. Read the enclosed information sheets together with your child. If you are requesting for your child to be immunized, [click here for the CONSENT FORM](#) to access and complete the electronic immunization consent form. Completed forms are secure and adhere to York Region Public Health privacy and confidentiality standards.

Students in grade 9-12 can complete and sign the form themselves (if capable of doing so) and do not require parental consent to be immunized. Alternatively for students in grade 9-12, a parent can complete it and submit it on behalf of the student and the student will be asked to confirm their consent for immunization at the clinic. Students in grade 7 & 8 require parental consent on the form to be immunized. The student will also be asked to confirm their consent for immunization at the clinic. If your child is in grade 7 or 8 and you do not consent to have your child immunized with all or specific vaccines, please indicate “No” on the consent form as appropriate or do not submit a completed consent form.



2. Consents that are submitted for vaccination are valid for 2 years from the date of submission. There is no need to submit additional consent forms for doses to be given in the SPRING 2023 visit to your child’s school



3. If your child has already been immunized with these vaccines, please ensure their immunization record is up to date. Check online at www.york.ca/immunization or call York Region Public Health at 1-877-464-9675, ext. 73456 to update your child’s immunization records. NOTE: If these immunizations were previously completed in school or through your health care provider, additional doses are not required.

4. If your child misses their school clinic, visit www.york.ca/immunization to book an appointment for hepatitis B, human papillomavirus (HPV) or meningococcal vaccine at York Region Public Health's community immunization clinics to receive the dose at the earliest opportunity or your child will be offered the missed dose at the next school visit.
5. A notice will be sent home with each immunized student outlining the vaccine(s) administered at the clinic and the number of doses of Hepatitis B and HPV9 vaccine that are still required based on your child's age. If your child requires 3 doses of HPV9 or Hepatitis B vaccine, the school immunization clinics will complete 2 of those doses (Fall 2022 and Spring 2023), you can book an appointment at a community immunization clinic for the additional dose at York.ca/immunization
6. To prepare your child for clinic day, review the helpful information at "[What to expect at a YRPH clinic](#)". With continuing Covid-19 precautions, clinic staff and students will be required when in the clinic area and students will be provided with a mask if they are without one. Mask exemptions will be accommodated.

Get caught up on routine immunizations

Staying on track with Ontario's routine immunization schedule ensures your child will develop a strong immune system, protecting them against vaccine preventable diseases and also ensures your child has the right vaccines at the right time to meet the requirements to attend school in Ontario.

Aside from these three important life-saving immunizations being available at school, get your child up to date with any other overdue immunizations at your health care provider's office. This may include missed doses of diphtheria, tetanus, polio, pertussis (whooping cough) measles, mumps, rubella or varicella (chickenpox) vaccine(s).

If your child receives immunizations through your health care provider's office, it is your responsibility to ensure York Region Public Health is informed (your health care provider does not share this information on your behalf). Update your child's record at eimmunization.york.ca

In addition, anyone aged 6 months and older can get the flu vaccine when it becomes available. Flu spread easily and can cause serious illness. Ensure your child is vaccinated against flu this season. The flu vaccine can be received at health care provider's office or pharmacies.

For more information about the school immunization program or eligibility for vaccines call **York Region Public Health** at

1-877-464-9675 or visit york.ca/immunization

Grade 7-12 School Immunization Clinics: Frequently Asked Questions

1. Is a signature from the parent/legal guardian required on the consent form? Where can I get a consent form?

- Students in grades 7 & 8 require a parent/legal guardian to complete and sign the immunization consent form. Although parents/legal guardians can complete the consent form on behalf of a high school student, students in grades 9-12, if capable, can complete and sign the consent form themselves to proceed with vaccination.

- **[CLICK HERE TO ACCESS ELECTRONIC CONSENT FORM LINK](#)**

2. When does the consent form need to be submitted? Will late submissions be accepted?

- Deadline to submit an electronic consent is **September 20, 2022**. Students may still be immunized at the school clinic if the consent is received after the deadline with priority given to those students that submitted a consent form prior to the deadline.

3. My child is very nervous. Is there anything I can do to prepare my child for the immunization?

- Visit [What to Expect at an Immunization Clinic](#) section for tips on how to reduce pain and anxiety about getting needles.

4. Is it safe to receive more than one vaccine at a time?

- Yes. Your child's immune system can easily handle many vaccines at once. Receiving multiple vaccines is safe, convenient, and ensures the best protection for your child at the earliest age possible.

5. What should I expect after the immunization?

- Students are observed by a nurse in the clinic for 15 minutes after receiving an immunization. All usual activities, including physical activity and sports may be resumed after being immunized. The most common side effects are mild, short lived and can include: redness, swelling, and discomfort at the injection site. Severe side effects are rare

6. I'm not sure if my child has an allergy to the items listed on the consent form (aluminum, latex, yeast, thimerosal, sodium chloride, L-histidine, polysorbate 80 or borate.) Where are they are found?

- Latex can be found in rubber gloves, balloons or bandages
- Yeast can be found in bread, cereal or cookies
- Some childhood vaccines contain aluminum, thimerosal, sodium chloride (salt), L-histidine, polysorbate 80, trometamol, sucrose and borate

Children with a known allergy to these items should not be vaccinated at school. Consult with your health care provider if you are concerned your child may be allergic to any of these items.

7. Who should I contact if my child previously received this vaccine?

- To update your child's immunization record contact York Region Public Health at 1-877-464-9675 ext. 73456 or visit eimmunization.york.ca

8. Are these vaccines mandatory?

- Meningococcal ACYW-135 vaccination is strongly recommended and is required for school attendance as outlined in the Immunization of School Pupils Act, unless a valid exemption is on file.
- Hepatitis B and Human Papillomavirus are strongly recommended for students, though they are not mandatory for school attendance. These vaccines are safe and effective for protecting your child against infectious diseases and associated severe health complications including cancers.

9. What type of safety measures are in place to minimize risk of COVID-19 transmission while attending the school clinic?

- York Region Public Health continues to require the use of masks by students/attendees/staff and visitors in the immunization clinic. If your child does not have a mask at school on clinic day, one will be provided. Mask exemptions will be accommodated.
- Students will remain in their class cohorts whenever possible and will remain in small groups to minimize the number of students in the clinic at any one time.
- For the most up to date recommendations for schools, please visit [Staying Safe at School](#)

10. My child recently received the COVID-19 vaccine. Are they safe to receive these vaccines now?

- For students aged 5 years and older, they can safely receive the school-based vaccines at the same time or anytime before or after receipt of the COVID-19 vaccine.

11. How can my child catch up on other routine immunizations, aside from the vaccines offered in school?

- Children should receive overdue routine immunizations at the earliest opportunity. Routine immunizations are available through your health care provider and are critically important for prevention against a number of infectious diseases. This can include immunizations that are required for school such as tetanus, diphtheria, pertussis, polio, chickenpox, measles, mumps, and rubella. If you are unsure if your child is due for any of these vaccines, check their immunization record (yellow immunization card), speak to your health care provider or call York Region Public Health at 1-877-464-9675. If your child has received vaccines through your health care provider, see question #7.

12. How long are students eligible for these student vaccinations?

- Students in grades 7-12 are eligible for free doses of Hepatitis B, Meningococcal ACYW-135 and HPV with all doses of Hepatitis B & HPV vaccine to be completed prior to August 31st of the graduating year. Students who do not receive Meningococcal ACYW-135 vaccine while in grades 7-12 remain eligible after graduation until a dose is received. In addition, male & female students who graduated high school in 2022 along with female students who graduated high-school in 2020 or 2021 are eligible for free doses of HPV vaccine up until August 31, 2023. Once the period of eligibility passes for Hepatitis B or HPV vaccine, individuals would need to purchase doses of vaccine to be vaccinated at their health care provider's office. If a student needs 3 doses of HPV vaccine or Hepatitis B vaccine but only 2 doses can be received through the school immunization clinics, the additional dose can be received by booking an appointment at one of York Region Public Health's [community catch up clinics](#) within the period of vaccine eligibility.

13. Who can I contact if my question is not covered here?

- Visit york.ca/immunization for more information or call York Region Public Health at 1-877-464-9675.

HEPATITIS B VACCINE INFORMATION

(ENGERIX-B VACCINE, RECOMBIVAX HB® VACCINE)

What is Hepatitis B and how is it spread?

Hepatitis B is an infection of the liver caused by the hepatitis B virus. A person with acute hepatitis B infection can become a chronic or lifelong carrier and remain infectious. Chronic infection may lead to serious liver disease, liver cancer or death. Symptoms of Hepatitis B infection include fatigue, fever, loss of appetite, and jaundice (yellow skin and eyes). The virus is found in the blood and body fluids of an infected person and can be spread through sexual contact, sharing toothbrushes or needles with an infected person and through other exposures to these fluids. An infected pregnant person can pass the virus to an unborn child.

How can Hepatitis B be prevented?

- Vaccination is the best way to prevent hepatitis B infection. Risk may also be lowered by avoiding contact with other people's blood and body fluids.

How effective is the Hepatitis B vaccine?

- Hepatitis B vaccine works very well. Hepatitis B vaccine is 95% to 100% effective in preventing chronic infection for at least 30 years following immunization.

What are the side effects of this vaccine?

- The hepatitis B vaccine is safe and well-tolerated. Reactions are usually mild and short-lived and include headache, fatigue, and injection site reactions such as pain, redness and swelling. These side effects mean your immune system is responding to the vaccine and building up protection. Apply ice to the site and/or take a non-aspirin pain reliever to help minimize pain and/or swelling. Serious reactions are rare.
- Students are observed for a minimum of 15 minutes after their vaccination to ensure there are no immediate side effects. Anyone who experiences serious health effects after they leave the clinic should consult their doctor and notify York Region Public Health

More about the Hepatitis B vaccine

- In Ontario, students in grades 7-12 are offered the vaccine at no cost. This vaccine is strongly recommended for students. The Hepatitis B vaccine series requires two doses recommended no earlier than 6 months apart if the vaccine is received between ages 11-15. A third dose is needed for students vaccinated at age 16 or older.
- If you are unsure if your child was previously vaccinated with Hepatitis B vaccine, your child should receive the dose(s) offered at the earliest opportunity.
- Get protection early, be vaccinated at the earliest opportunity. If your child misses being vaccinated in school, they can still receive HPV9 vaccine at a York Region Public Health community clinic. Visit york.ca/immunization for clinic information

Who should NOT get this vaccine at school and should consult their health care provider?

- Those who have had a severe reaction to a vaccine (e.g., anaphylaxis)
- Those who have an illness or take any medication that weakens the immune system
- Those with previous severe allergic reaction to previous Hepatitis B vaccine or, or any of its specific components or container (e.g including aluminum, latex, yeast, or Thimerosal)
- Vaccination should be postponed in persons with moderate or severe acute illness. Persons with minor acute illness may be vaccinated if not under isolation for COVID-19.

HUMAN PAPILLOMAVIRUS (HPV) VACCINE INFORMATION

(HPV-9 VACCINE -GARDASIL9® VACCINE)

What is HPV and how does it spread?

- HPV is a very contagious virus that commonly infect males and females. It has more than 100 strains, including about 40 strains that affect the anogenital area. 8 out of 10 Canadians become infected with HPV during their lives. Teens and young adults have high rates of HPV infection.
- HPV can cause cancers of the anus, rectum, throat, oral cavity, cervix, vagina, vulva, and penis, as well as genital warts. Females who develop HPV cancer or precancer may require treatment that could limit their ability to have children.
- Although most HPV infections would go away on their own within two years, infections that do not resolve can cause cancer or warts. Many people with HPV do not have any symptoms and can spread the virus without knowing it.
- HPV infections are transmitted by intimate skin to skin contact (through oral, vaginal, or anal sex) and can be transmitted to an infant exposed to the virus in the mother's genital tract. Almost every unvaccinated person who is sexually active will get HPV at some time in their life.

How can HPV be prevented?

- Getting immunized is a safe and effective way to protect against HPV infection. The HPV-9 vaccine protects against nine diseases-causing strains of the virus: strains 6, 11 (can cause genital warts) and types 16, 18, 31, 33, 45, 52, 58 (can cause cancer). Vaccinating at a younger age is better as the HPV vaccine works best when given before exposure to the virus.
- The risk of HPV infection may be reduced by practicing safer sex for those who are sexually active. However, condoms do not fully protect against getting HPV.

How effective is the HPV-9 vaccine?

- The HPV-9 vaccine works very well. Immunization against the strains contained in the HPV9 vaccine can prevent about 90% of high-risk cervical precancers, 87% of cervical cancers, 84% of anogenital cancers, and 90% of genital warts. The HPV-9 vaccine prevents cancers in both males and females.

What are the side effects of this vaccine?

- The HPV vaccine is safe and generally well-tolerated. The most common side effects are redness, pain and swelling at the injection site that are mild and short-lived. These side effects mean your immune system is responding to the vaccine and building up protection. Apply ice to the site and/or take a non-aspirin pain reliever to help minimize pain and/or swelling. Serious reactions are rare.
- Students are observed for a minimum of 15 minutes after their vaccination to ensure there are no immediate side effects. Anyone who experiences serious health effects after they leave the clinic should consult their doctor and notify York Region Public Health

More about the HPV-9 (Gardasil 9®) vaccine

- Ontario students in grades 7-12 are offered the HPV-9 (Gardasil 9®) vaccine at no cost. In addition, as part of Ontario's student immunization catch up, males and females who graduated high school in 2022, as well as females that graduated in 2021 & 2020 are also able to receive HPV vaccine for free up until August 31, 2023. After that date these groups of graduated students would need to purchase the HPV9 vaccine for vaccination at their health care provider's office. This vaccine is strongly recommended for students.
- Gardasil 9® is a two dose series if your child receives their first dose before the age of 15. Three doses of the vaccine are needed if your child is 15 years or older at the time of their first dose.
- Get protection early, be vaccinated at the earliest opportunity. If your child misses being vaccinated in school, they can still receive HPV9 vaccine at a York Region Public Health community clinic. Visit york.ca/immunization for clinic information.

Who should NOT get this vaccine at school and should consult their health care provider?

- Those who have had a severe reaction to a vaccine (e.g., anaphylaxis)
- Those who have an illness or take any medication that weakens the immune system
- Those with previous severe allergic reaction to previous HPV vaccine or any of its specific components or container (e.g. yeast, aluminum, sodium chloride, L-histidine, polysorbate 80, sodium borate)
- Pregnant individuals should wait until after pregnancy to start or complete the vaccine
- Individuals younger than 9 years of age or older than 45 years of age
- Vaccination should be postponed in persons with moderate or severe acute illness. Persons with minor acute illness may be vaccinated if not under isolation for COVID-19.

MENINGOCOCCAL QUADRIVALENT VACCINE INFORMATION

(MENACTRA®, MENVEO® OR NIMENRIX® MEN-C-ACYW₁₃₅ VACCINE)

What is meningococcal disease and how does it spread?

- Meningococcal disease is caused by the bacteria *Neisseria Meningitidis*. It can lead to inflammation of the tissue around the brain and spinal cord (meningitis) or infection of the bloodstream. Symptoms can include sudden onset of fever, severe headache, stiff neck, nausea, vomiting and sometimes a rash.
- Serious illness can develop quickly in a matter of hours, and 10 percent can die from the disease. Up to 1 in 5 survivors have long-term disabilities such as limb loss, brain damage, and/or deafness.
- Meningococcal disease is not very common in Canada, but teens may be at increased risk.
- The bacteria can spread from person to person through direct contact with secretions from the nose and throat of an infected individual, from kissing, or using items that have been in contact with an infected person's mouth, such as: water bottles, straws, cigarettes, e-cigarettes, food, utensils, musical instruments, toothbrushes, or lipstick.

How can Meningococcal disease be prevented?

- Vaccination is the best protection against meningococcal disease. Meningococcal vaccines are safe and effective.

How effective is the Meningococcal ACYW₁₃₅ vaccine?

- The quadrivalent meningococcal vaccine (MenC ACYW₁₃₅) vaccine works very well. Effectiveness within four years of vaccination in adolescence is 80% to 85%. It protects against four types of meningococcal bacteria (A, C, Y, and W-135).
- Additional vaccine doses are recommended later on for some individuals who have higher risk of disease or exposure (e.g. travel to certain areas, military/laboratory personnel, contact with a known case).

What are the side effects of this vaccine?

- The Meningococcal ACYW₁₃₅ vaccine is safe and generally well-tolerated. Common side effects are mild and short-lived and include headache, fatigue, and injection site reactions such as pain, redness and swelling. These side effects mean your immune system is responding to the vaccine and building up protection. Apply ice to the site and/or take a non-aspirin pain reliever to help minimize pain and/or swelling. Serious reactions are rare.
- Students are observed for a minimum of 15 minutes after their vaccination to ensure there are no immediate side effects. Anyone who experiences serious health effects after they leave the clinic should consult their doctor and notify York Region Public Health

More about the Meningococcal ACYW₁₃₅ vaccine (Menactra®, Menveo®, Nimenrix® vaccine)

- Students in grades 7-12 in Ontario are eligible for one dose of the Meningococcal ACYW₁₃₅ vaccine as part of the student immunization program. In addition, individuals born in 1997 or after are able to receive a dose if not already vaccinated.

- As an *Immunization of School Pupils Act* requirement in Ontario all students aged 12 and older must to be up-to-date with their meningococcal vaccine or have a valid exemption to attend school, otherwise they could face school suspension. If your child received a dose of this vaccine in the past (between ages of 1-5 years) another dose is not required for school attendance, but it is safe and recommended for your child to still receive an additional dose in the pre-teen or teen years.
- Meningococcal ACYW₁₃₅ vaccine is a different vaccine from (and provides more protection than) the meningococcal C vaccine (Men-C-C vaccine such as NeisVac-C® or Menjugate®) which is typically given to babies at one year of age and only protects against C strain meningitis.
- Get protection early, be vaccinated at the earliest opportunity. If your child misses being vaccinated in school, they can still receive Meningococcal ACYW₁₃₅ vaccine at a York Region Public Health community clinic. Visit york.ca/immunization for clinic information.

Who should not get this vaccine at school and should consult their health care provider?

- Those who have had a severe reaction to a vaccine (e.g., anaphylaxis)
- Those who have an illness or take any medication that weakens the immune system
- Those with previous severe allergic reaction to Meningococcal ACYW₁₃₅ vaccine or any of its specific components or container (e.g. diphtheria toxoid carrier protein)
- Those who have received a Meningococcal conjugate vaccine within the past 4 weeks
- Vaccination should be postponed in persons with moderate or severe acute illness. Persons with minor acute illness may be vaccinated if not under isolation for COVID-19.