

School Immunization Checklist

For your children to attend school in Ontario, they need to be immunized against the following infectious diseases:

- Pertussis (whooping cough)
- Varicella (chickenpox)*
- Meningococcal disease

New mandatory immunizations

- Tetanus
- Diphtheria
- Polio
- Mumps

New dose requirements

- Measles
- Rubella

Requirements have not changed

For other recommended vaccines, visit Ontario's Immunization Schedule at ontario.ca/vaccines.

Vaccines help your body help itself

Vaccines work by triggering a natural response in your body to produce antibodies, which fight off disease. Vaccines are an essential part of childhood health and development.

* Chickenpox vaccine is required for school attendance beginning with children born in 2010 or later.

Keep our children healthy and our schools disease-free

Stick to Ontario's Immunization Schedule

As a parent, keeping your kids safe and healthy is your number one priority. All children attending school between ages 4 to 17 need to be immunized according to Ontario's Immunization Schedule. Immunization protects children from many serious diseases that are easily spread in schools.

What's new?

Starting in the 2014/15 school year, children need to have proof of immunization against meningococcal disease, whooping cough and chickenpox* to attend school. This is in addition to existing requirements for proof of immunization against many other diseases (see checklist on left). The number of shots (doses) required for tetanus, diphtheria, polio and mumps has also been updated. Children who are not fully immunized may not be allowed to attend school.

What you need to do

Check with your health care provider or local public health unit to make sure your child has all the vaccines needed to attend school. If your child has followed the immunization schedule, no further vaccines will be needed.

Did you know that it's your responsibility to report your child's updated immunization records to your local public health unit? Your health care provider does not report these records for you. To find your local public health unit, or for more information on immunization, visit ontario.ca/vaccines.



For more than 200 years vaccines have been saving lives around the world! Get the vaccines and protect your family against the following diseases.

Pertussis (whooping cough)

Whooping cough is a serious disease, especially for children. It's a cough so serious it can cause children to vomit or stop breathing for a short period of time.

Varicella (chickenpox)

Children with chickenpox will feel sick with fatigue, mild headache, fever up to 39° C, chills and muscle or joint aches a day or two before a red, itchy, blister-like rash begins. Complications from chickenpox can include bacterial skin infections, ear infections, and pneumonia.

Meningococcal disease

Meningococcal infections can cause serious diseases, including meningitis. Meningitis is a very serious infection that occurs in people who have either come in contact with an otherwise healthy person who is a "carrier" or come in contact with another person sick with the disease. Meningococcal disease can also cause blood poisoning and infections of the brain and spinal cord.

Tetanus

Tetanus or lockjaw is a serious disease that can happen if dirt with the tetanus germ gets into a cut in the skin. It can cause cramping of the muscles and dangerous convulsions.

Diphtheria

This is a serious disease of the nose, throat and skin. It causes sore throat, fever and chills. Diphtheria can be complicated by breathing problems, heart failure and nerve damage.

Polio

Polio is a serious disease that people can get from drinking water or eating food with the polio virus in it. It can also be spread from person-to-person. Polio can cause nerve damage, paralyze someone for life and also cause death.

Mumps

Mumps is a viral infection characterized by fever, headache and swelling of the cheek, jaw and neck. It can cause complications such as hearing loss and inflammation of the brain.

Measles

Measles can be a serious infection. It causes high fever, cough, rash, runny nose and watery eyes. Measles can cause complications such as ear infections and pneumonia.

Rubella

Up to half of the infections with rubella occur without a rash. Rubella may cause fever, sore throat, swollen glands in the neck and a rash on the face and neck. It can cause serious complications in pregnant women and their babies, and arthritis in adults.



Important note:

Students who do not have up-to-date immunization records on file at their local public health unit may be suspended from school until records are provided.

Contact your local public health unit to report your child's immunization records.