



Immunization of Students during COVID-19

It is important to keep your child's immunization status up to date to protect family, friends and neighbours when physical distancing measures and other restrictions are lifted. Vaccination requirements to enter child care and schools are currently not being enforced however now is the time to prepare for re-entry to school and day care.

Right now, the general risk of transmission of most vaccine preventable diseases is reduced because of travel restrictions, physical distancing, and the closure of all non-essential establishments. One exception to this is tetanus, which is acquired from the environment, but it is very rare in Ontario.

Schools have been closed since March 12 and families have been only seeking urgent or emergency medical care for their children. Due to school closures, immunization programs that are provided in schools (hepatitis B, meningococcal-C-ACYW, and HPV) will be delayed until schools re-open. As a result, your child's immunization status may not be up to date. Peterborough Public Health will work with school partners and primary care providers to provide delayed doses at the earliest opportunity and after evaluating risk and benefit. Catch up clinics will be advertised through your school and our website. Peterborough Public Health will work with schools, parents and guardians to ensure that immunization services are available and that your child does not miss school due to delays in immunization because of COVID-19.

Some Tips:

- Update your child's immunization records through the online portal that can be found at the following [link](#).
- Call your doctor's office for routine vaccinations for children 0 – 18 months. They are considered a priority. For more information about childhood immunizations click [here](#).
- Call Peterborough Public Health at 705-748-2021 for an appointment if your child does not have a doctor or nurse practitioner.
- If your child needs their grade 7 Meningococcal Vaccine, ask your doctor or nurse practitioner. Some primary care providers stock it because it is mandatory to attend school.
- Consult with your doctor or nurse practitioner if your child's routine vaccinations have been delayed. A series of vaccinations can be adjusted.
- If your child is visiting a doctor or nurse practitioner for an urgent health issue, ask them to review your child's immunization status and provide missing vaccinations.
- Avoid going to a clinic for immunization if you or your child are feeling ill.