

School Immunization Clinics **FACT SHEET**

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR STUDENTS & PARENTS

What vaccines are offered?

Health Department nurses will be in the community this year to offer grade 7 and 8 students the following vaccines for FREE. They are NOT free through your health care provider.

- **Meningococcal Conjugate ACYW-135 (Men C-ACYW)**
- **Human Papillomavirus (HPV)**
- **Hepatitis B (Hep B)**

Appointments for grade 7 and 8 students who are attending school in person or through virtual learning, can be booked online:

www.durham.ca/immunizationclinics

On the website, you will find the days and clinic locations available.

Consent forms will be present for you/your child to sign at the clinic.



Read this **FACT SHEET** to learn about the clinics and the vaccines being offered. Discuss the vaccines with your child.



Access durham.ca/immunizationclinics and complete the required fields to book an appointment for your child for the fall clinic.

Find a location that is convenient for you to access. Students registered in **Virtual Learning** are encouraged to book an appointment as well.

You will receive a confirmation and reminder email, prior to the clinic appointment.

If you or your child do not want some or all the vaccines...

Let us know your wishes by doing the following:

- Identify which vaccines you *do* wish to receive on the online booking form. Discuss the vaccines with the Public Health Nurse on the day of the clinic.
- If you do not wish to have your child receive any of the offered vaccines contact your health care provider or the Health Department to address any questions.

What should I do if my child already had the vaccine(s)?

Call the Health Department at **1-800-841-2729** or **905-666-6242** to provide the dates the vaccines were received.

Grade 9 students will receive a call from a Public Health Nurse to be booked into a clinic to complete vaccines missed this past spring.

How do I prepare my child for the clinic?

BEFORE THE CLINIC: Let your child know:

- What to expect
- Why the vaccines are important
- That the needle might feel like a pinch in the upper arm that only lasts a few seconds
- That the nurse will help to decrease their fear/pain (e.g. distraction, deep breathing, relaxing their arm, talking them through the experience etc.)

ON THE DAY OF THE CLINIC: Have your child:

- Eat something before their appointment
- Wear a shirt with loose sleeves
- Wear a mask to access the clinic
- Follow instructions provided by the Public Health Nurse and your reminder email to access the clinic

Your child will get a record of immunization after receiving the vaccine(s).



MEN C-ACYW VACCINE

What is meningococcal disease (e.g. meningitis)?

Meningococcal bacteria are found in a person's nose and throat. It's easily spread by close direct contact such as kissing, coughing or sharing items like food, drinks or lip gloss.

Meningococcal bacteria can cause brain and spinal cord swelling (meningitis) or a blood infection. Without treatment it can lead to serious illness, disability or death (for more information visit www.durham.ca/factsabout).

What are the benefits of having the Men C-ACYW vaccine?

Meningitis can be prevented with the Men C-ACYW vaccine (e.g. Menactra® or Menveo®) 80% to 85% of the time.

What is the difference between meningococcal vaccines?

One dose of Meningococcal-C vaccine (e.g. Menjugate®) is required after age one; this protects against 1 type of meningococcal bacteria.

One dose of Men C-ACYW vaccine is required in grade 7; **this protects against 4 types of meningococcal bacteria.**

If your child has received one or more doses of the Meningococcal-C vaccine in the past, one dose of Men C-ACYW is still required.

What is the Men C-ACYW schedule for grade 7 students?

One dose of Men C-ACYW vaccine is **mandatory** for children to attend school in Ontario, unless they have a valid exemption. If you need more information on completing an exemption for conscience, religious, or medical reasons please contact us.

If one dose of Men C-ACYW vaccine was already given after one year of age, another is not required. However, it is recommended that grade 7 students get a booster dose if it has been more than 5 years since the previous dose.

HPV VACCINE

What is the HPV virus?

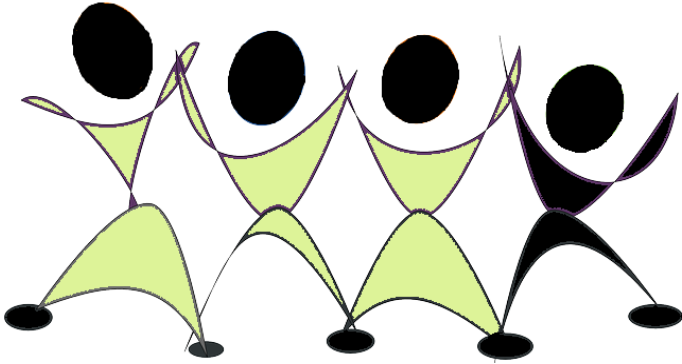
Human Papilloma Virus (HPV) is a common virus that is spread by intimate skin to skin contact with a person infected with HPV. HPV can lead to genital warts, cervical cancer, genital cancers, precancerous lesions, anal cancer and certain cancers of the head and neck (for more information visit www.durham.ca/factsabout).

Every year in Ontario, HPV causes:

- 254 HPV-related deaths
- 1,090 new cases of cancer
- 14,666 new cases of genital warts

What are the benefits of having the HPV vaccine?

The HPV vaccine is most effective when given *before* a person becomes sexually active. It can prevent 80% of cervical cancers and close to 90% of genital warts. HPV-9 vaccine protects against 9 strains of the virus.



3 out of 4 people come into contact with HPV at some point. Many people don't know they have it, so they spread it to others.



What is the HPV schedule for grade 7 students?

The HPV vaccine is given as 2 doses, 6 months apart. If your child is starting the HPV vaccine at 15 years of age (or older) or has a weakened immune system, they will need 3 doses.

HEPATITIS B VACCINE

What is the hepatitis B virus?

Hepatitis B virus is spread by close contact with infected body fluids or sharing items like toothbrushes, razors, or nail clippers used by an infected person. 50% of adults and 90% of children may not know they are infected with hepatitis B because they don't have symptoms.

Hepatitis B cannot be cured. Hepatitis B can cause liver swelling or long-term damage and it is one of the most common causes of liver cancer (for more information visit www.durham.ca/factsabout).

What are the benefits of having the hepatitis B vaccine?

Hepatitis B can be prevented 95% to 100% of the time when the vaccine series is finished.

There are different types of hepatitis B vaccines. Some only protect against hepatitis B (e.g. Engerix-B®). Others protect against hepatitis A and B (e.g. Twinrix®). Twinrix® vaccines are not offered at school but you can buy them through your health care provider.

What is the Hepatitis B schedule for grade 7 students?

Hepatitis B vaccine is given as 2 doses, 6 months apart.

What if my child started or finished a Hepatitis B vaccine series before grade 7?

Some children start or finish a hepatitis B containing vaccine before grade 7. Use the table below to see if your child finished one of the recommended schedules.

If your child started but did not finish a Twinrix® series, it is recommended they finish it with their health care provider to get protection for both hepatitis A and B.

If your child started but did not finish a hepatitis B series, they can finish it with the Health Department.

Hepatitis B only vaccine

DOSE 1:	First dose
DOSE 2:	1 month later
DOSE 3:	5 months after dose 2

Twinrix® Junior (often used for children)

DOSE 1:	First dose
DOSE 2:	1 month later
DOSE 3:	5 months after dose 2

Twinrix® vaccine (often used for adults)

DOSE 1:	First dose
DOSE 2:	6-12 months later

NOTE: This table is based on the Canadian Immunization Guide

GENERAL VACCINE INFORMATION

How do the vaccines work?

Vaccines are made with a small amount of dead or weakened virus or bacteria. When given, vaccines help the body make fighting cells (antibodies) which boosts the immune system's ability to fight off the virus or bacteria if you come into contact with them.

Is it safe for my child to get more than one vaccine at a time?

Some vaccines are given together to protect against several diseases at once. Your child's immune system is amazing! It can easily handle more than one vaccine at a time safely.

At the clinic, we give up to 3 needles, using a different needle and area of the arm. The vaccines are just as effective when given together and do not cause more side effects.

Do the vaccines have side effects?

Your child can't get HPV, hepatitis B or meningococcal disease from the vaccines. Studies show that these vaccines are safe and side effects are usually mild and last a short time. The most common side effects are:

- Headache
- Fatigue
- Redness, pain, and/or swelling where the needle was given

To relieve pain, swelling, and/or a mild fever you can:

- Place a cold cloth where the needle was given
- Give acetaminophen (e.g. Tylenol™)

A severe allergic reaction after immunization is very rare. If you think a serious reaction is developing, seek medical attention right away.

Any unusual or significant changes in your child's health after an immunization should be reported to a health care provider and the Health Department.

The most common potential allergens are:

- **Hepatitis B:** yeast protein, thimerosal
- **Men C-ACYW:** diphtheria toxoid protein
- **HPV:** yeast protein

Any part of a vaccine may cause an allergy. For vaccine ingredients, see the Canadian Immunization Guide at <http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/publicat/cig-gci/p01-14-eng.php>

Did you know Ontario has a Health Care Consent Act (1996)?

Health care providers must have a person's consent to give any medical treatment. Consent can be provided at any age as long as the person consenting understands the treatment and is informed. Consent must be provided voluntarily and cannot be based on false information.

To provide informed consent, we ask that you and your child:

- Read all of the Fact Sheet
- Sign the consent form at the clinic
- Call your health provider if you need additional information



NEED MORE INFORMATION?

Visit:

- durham.ca/immunizationclinics
- Ontario.ca/vaccines

Call 1-800-841-2729 if you need this information in an accessible format.