

NOTICE FOR PARENTS, GUARDIANS AND STUDENTS

RE: Immunization Requirements and Flu Shots

Immunization is one of the safest ways to promote health and prevent an illness related to a vaccine-preventable disease.

Under the *Immunization of School Pupils Act* (ISPA), York Region Community and Health Services Public Health Branch is required to collect and review immunization records of all children attending school to ensure each child is immunized unless an exemption due to medical, conscience or religious reasons is provided.

What's New?

As of July 1, 2014, regulatory changes under the ISPA, outlines that students aged 4 to 17 years will need to have proof of immunization against:

- **Meningococcal disease**
- **Pertussis** (whooping cough)
- **Varicella** (chickenpox) for children born in 2010 or later

This is in addition to existing requirements for proof of immunization against diphtheria, polio, tetanus, measles, mumps and rubella. The number of required doses of diphtheria, polio, tetanus and mumps vaccines has been updated to align with Ontario's Immunization Schedule.

Updates to the immunization requirements for school attendance were introduced in the beginning of the 2014/2015 school year.

What you need to do

Check with your health care provider or contact us to make sure your child has all the required immunizations to attend school. If your child has followed the immunization schedule, they will have received all the vaccines they need to attend school.

York Region Public Health will be contacting you in the fall of 2014 to obtain your child's up-to-date immunization record. You need to inform us of your child's immunization as doctors do not provide this information to us.

Do not send an updated immunization record to the school or York Region at this time. Please wait for an immunization questionnaire notice that will outline any incomplete immunization information.

In addition to the required vaccines for school attendance, we recommend **flu immunization** for children to help control the spread of influenza within the schools. Families can get their flu shot at pharmacies, family physician's offices and York Region Community Clinics.

Please call us at 1-877-794-1880, or go to www.york.ca/immunizations for more information.

Sincerely,



Denise Graham

Supervisor, Data Support Program