



PUBLIC HEALTH NOTES

FEBRUARY 2020 VOLUME 2, ISSUE 2

Immunization Requirements for School Attendance

IMMUNIZATION OF SCHOOL PUPILS ACT

Ontario's Immunization of School Pupils Act (ISPA) requires children and adolescents attending primary or secondary schools to be appropriately immunized against designated diseases in accordance with Ontario's publicly funded immunization schedule, unless there is a valid exemption. Children and adolescents must have proof of immunization against the following diseases:

- Diphtheria
- Tetanus
- Polio
- Measles
- Mumps
- Rubella
- Meningococcal Disease
- Pertussis (whooping cough)
- Varicella (chickenpox) – for children born in 2010 or later



IMMUNIZATION SURVEILLANCE

On an annual basis, Renfrew County and District Health Unit (RCDHU) revises immunization records of all children and adolescents attending school in Ontario. Students who have not received all the required immunizations receive a notice identifying the missing immunization information. The Medical Officer of Health can apply a suspension order to all students with outstanding immunization documentation. These students remain suspended until they submit proof of immunization, a valid statement of medical exemption, or a statement of conscience or religious belief affidavit accompanied by a Ministry-mandated education session. As of December 13th, 2019, RCDHU began sending these notices by mail with a suspension date of:

March 26th, 2020.



IMMUNIZATION OF SCHOOL PUPILS ACT

In order to prevent re-immunization and/or suspension, it is necessary to provide the proper documentation of all the pupil's immunizations against designated diseases showing: type of vaccine, date of administration, name/ immunizing agent of vaccine and health care provider's signature.

Note: Two client identifiers are needed (ex: name, date of birth, health number, etc.) to ensure correct client.

It is the parent's responsibility to report the child's updated immunization records to RCDHU, although health care providers administering an immunizing agent to a student are encouraged to provide a copy of the immunization record to the health unit.

CONTACT INFO

Contact RCDHU to learn more about our immunization clinics, ISPA, exemptions, or any other inquiries related to immunization. Parents or health care providers can submit documentation to RCDHU by:

- **Phone:** 613-735-8666, or 1-800-267-1097, ext. 666
- **Fax:** 613-735-3067
- **Mail or in person:** 7 International Drive, Pembroke, ON K8A 6W5
- **Online:** www.rcdhu.com – Immunization Connect Ontario (ICON)