



Update about School Immunization Requirements



Good afternoon,

This email is to inform you that the Department of Public Health will maintain immunization requirements for school entry as they are currently posted for the 2020-2021 school year. The Immunization Division acknowledges the intense pressure families and schools are facing in the setting of COVID-19 and continues to advise that vaccinating against vaccine-preventable diseases is important to reduce the overall burden of disease in our school communities.

We encourage school communities to **work with families and healthcare providers during the initial months of the school year to satisfy the requirements for students who are not compliant on the first day of school** and remind schools that enforcement of school-entry requirements is determined at the local level. We recognize that this is particularly challenging given the uncertainties with the return to school this fall. At the same time, we have witnessed immunization rates decline this spring; requiring immunizations for school helps to ensure catch-up of immunizations that may have been missed this year. We also hope that we have an especially high uptake of flu vaccine in the early fall, which could also create an opportunity for students to receive other vaccines required for school entry.

The Childcare/Preschool, Kindergarten, and Grade 7 surveys will be conducted this fall with an extended deadline. We will postpone the start of the Grade 11 survey (assessing the new MenACWY requirement) until the 2021 calendar year. Assessment Unit epidemiologists are available by email or phone to assist with interpreting catch-up vaccine schedules. Thank you again for everything you are doing to support these important public health activities.

Sincerely,
Assessment Unit
Immunization Division

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Have questions? Want to learn more? Contact us!
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