

SCHOOL IMMUNIZATION PROGRAM 2022

Frequently Asked Questions



What is the School Immunization Program?

Every year Public Health provides an immunization program to Grade 7 students in their school. Clinics are offered in the fall and another round in the spring. Students who missed immunization in previous years may also be offered these immunizations.

How will it work?

You will receive information through your child's school about school-based immunization clinics. Please read the booklet and complete the attached consent. Your child can return the consent to the school to be picked up by Public Health staff.

Will clinics be held at every school?

Clinics will be held in most schools as in previous years. If, for medical reasons, your child misses these clinics, Public Health will attempt to have your child vaccinated at the follow-up clinics. If this is not possible, your child will be immunized at the school-based immunization clinics in the spring of 2023.

I am planning to book my child to receive either their first or second dose of COVID-19 vaccine. How does this affect the Grade 7 or 8 immunization schedule?

There is no need to wait between receiving a COVID vaccine and receiving other vaccines, or vice versa. It is safe to receive other vaccines immediately before or after the COVID-19 vaccine, or at the same time. Therefore, your child can receive their school-based immunizations either before or after their COVID-19 vaccine, without any delay.

What if the location/date identified for my child doesn't work?

If a child misses these clinics, Public Health will make attempts to immunize your child at follow-up clinics. If this is not possible, your child will receive their immunization at another time.

Will the clinics be safe to attend? What about COVID-19?

Public Health is part of Nova Scotia Health. Because we are a health service, each clinic will be setup to follow guidelines that help reduce and prevent the spread of COVID-19 and other respiratory viruses as per NSH guidelines. This may include how the physical space is set up with appropriate spacing, cleaning protocols or how many people we have in the space at a time. We will also have masks available for students while they are in the clinic area. There will be staff and signs at each clinic to help everyone understand what they need to do.

As the parent/guardian, can I attend the clinic with my child?

Normally parents/guardian do not attend a clinic within the school, however if your child needs support in some way, please check with the nurses/school and arrangements can be made.

Should my child wear a non-medical mask to the clinic because of COVID-19?

Public Health encourages masking while at the clinic. These will be provided. Guidelines around handwashing, physical distancing and cleaning will also be followed.



What should I do if my child has symptoms for COVID-19 or is not feeling well on the day of the clinic?

If your child is not feeling well, they should not attend school and follow protocols set up by the school, or RCE Other arrangements can be made to be immunized at a later date if needed.

How long will the clinics take?

Our goal is to have students at the clinic only for the time needed to complete the process (approx. 30 minutes, however this could vary). This includes screening, getting the immunizations and then waiting in recovery, where we monitor students.

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