



High School Immunization Catch-Up Clinics Questions and Answers for School Personnel

School Immunization Catch-Up Clinics

All families with students in grades 9 to 12 will need to receive a consent form package by email. This package consists of a parent memo, vaccine fact sheets, and a consent form. Parents are encouraged to speak with their youth about the vaccines. The consent will need to be printed and then both parent and youth should sign the consent form for each vaccine they are requiring in catch-up. The signed consent form should be brought to the school on the day of the clinic. *Consent is valid for 24 months.

The following vaccines will be offered:

- **Hepatitis B** vaccine, a two or three-dose vaccine (depending on age).
- **Meningococcal conjugate ACYW-135** vaccine, only one dose.
- **Human Papillomavirus (HPV)** vaccine two or three-dose vaccine (depending on age).
- **Tetanus-Diphtheria-Pertussis (Tdap)** vaccine, only one dose.

Who can parents contact if they did not receive a consent form, or have questions about it?

- Your school can resend the package to the family by email.
- We can provide paper copies, to have in the office (this is mentioned in the parent memo in the package).
- The consent can be accessed [online](#) or the student/parent can call Ottawa Public Health (OPH) at 613-580-6744 to speak to a Public Health Nurse.

How will the school clinic run?

- OPH Immunization team will have already reached out to School Administration to make plans for the scheduled day.
- Grades should have predetermined time slots to access the school clinic to receive the vaccines if they have signed consent forms. (i.e Block 1 – Grade 9, Block 2-Gr.10, Block 3-Gr.11/12, Block 4-Gr.7/8)
- This schedule will help spread students out over the day, but the clinic can take students as able.
- Students will be supervised for at least 15 minutes after getting the vaccine.
- Severe reactions are rare and most occur within 15 minutes of getting the vaccine.
- The nurses will stay at the school for at least 15 minutes after the last vaccine is given.

Can parents accompany their youth to the school clinic?

For confidentiality and safety reasons, **we do not allow parents to attend school clinics**. Parents who wish to accompany their child to their vaccination are welcome to call OPH to book a clinic appointment in the community if that's a current option (613- 580-6744). Parents can also book an appointment with their Primary Health Care Provider if they want to attend with their child.

How will parents know if their youth is up to date on their vaccines?

If they are unsure, please direct them to call Ottawa Public Health at 613-580-6744 or visit our Parenting in Ottawa [Updating and Retrieving Immunizations webpage](#) to submit and/or inquire about their child's immunization records. *Please note, if the child is 16 years of age or older, they need to provide verbal consent to OPH when a parent is calling OPH to discuss their vaccination record.*

Nurses will have access to a student's electronic immunization record. They can guide the student if a particular vaccine is not required despite parent consent, or if a student is missing a particular vaccine.

How is this different from the grades 7/8 clinics?

These clinics are meant to support students in grades 9 to 12 that may have missed their vaccinations due to the disruptions caused by the pandemic. Only students that have their consent form on the day of the clinic or if consent has been given in the last 24 months either on paper or over the phone with OPH, can present themselves to the clinic to assess their need for vaccines.

Will grade 7/8 students be able to access this catch-up clinic?

For schools that have grades 7 to 12, we will be prioritizing grades 9 to 12, however we will try to accommodate grade 7/8 students that may have missed their vaccines at the grade 7/8 fall school clinic.

What is the *Health Care Consent Act, 1996 (HCCA)*?

OPH nurses follow the HCCA when they give vaccines. The HCCA is a law that sets out rules about consent for treatment including immunization. There is no age of consent in this act. It addresses:

- **When** consent is required for health treatment
- **Who** may give consent
- **How** consent is obtained

ONE TO TWO WEEKS PRIOR TO CLINIC DATES

High School Immunization Catch-Up Clinics Preparation Checklist

Principal, Vice Principal and/or Designated Staff:

- Avoid scheduling conflicts! Share school immunization clinics dates with **ALL school staff**.
- Post immunization clinic dates on your school's website and/or in school newsletters and agendas
- Share the principal memo (especially the Health Care Consent Act info**) with teaching staff.
- Review your school board's emergency/anaphylactic policies prior to the clinic in the event that there would be a reaction after OPH departure. Ask school personnel to do the same.
- Ensure appropriate space has been booked for clinic:
 - On main floor ideally (or with access to large elevator).
 - Suitable room size with adequate lighting, airflow and privacy for clinic, available for duration of clinic(s) including breaks for the clinic staff.
 - School hallway or clinic waiting space is safe for students (they will have to wait there for 15 minutes after being vaccinated).

Office Administrator:

- Notify Custodian of site preparation details at least one week before clinic.
- For lesson planning and testing purposes, remind teachers about upcoming clinic.
- Refer parents with questions to OPH at 613-580-6744 to speak to a public health nurse.

DAY OF THE CLINIC

Custodian:

- Arrange to obtain:
 - Supply trolley
 - Tables
 - Chairs
 - Garbage cans (1-2)
 - Recycling box for cardboard
 - Double gym mats (2-3) for emergency recovery area of clinic

Office Administrator:

- Share clinic details/schedule (i.e. date, location) with supply teachers

Custodian:

- Prepare clinic site (make sure supplies are available in clinic space)
- Clear extra supplies, boxes, computers, etc. out to make area safe for students and OPH clinic staff

Classroom Teachers:

- Share clinic details/schedule (i.e. date, location) with supply teachers
- We want to prevent injuries! Students are to remain seated on the floor (not chairs) in the waiting area after receiving their vaccine