

**November 15, 2022**

**To:** Principals, Staff

**From:** Ottawa Public Health

**Subject:** High School Catch-Up Vaccination Clinics – Fall & Winter 2022/23

Ottawa Public Health (OPH) is currently planning school catch-up vaccination clinics in Ottawa High Schools. Members of our Immunization team have been in contact with school administration to review each school's needs and dates have been confirmed. While grade 9 to 12 students will be prioritized for these clinics, OPH can accept certain requests from other eligible students (grades 7/8) within the school who may face challenges with accessing some of these vaccines or missed the regular fall grade 7/8 clinic.

OPH understands that many students faced challenges when seeking school vaccinations during the COVID-19 pandemic. To support healthy growth and development, catch-up clinics for grade 9-12 students are a way to reduce barriers, thereby increasing access to ensure they are protected from vaccine preventable diseases. Offering these vaccines is a simple and effective way to prevent serious, life-threatening infections.

Not all students will need these vaccines as many have received their school vaccines in grade 7 or 8, and as well have kept up with routine vaccines (ie Tdap) through their health care provider. These catchup clinics are meant to offer those facing barriers in access, to receive any of the below vaccines in the school setting.

The following four vaccines will be available at the high school catch-up clinics:

- Hepatitis B (HB)
- Human Papillomavirus (HPV-9)
- Meningococcal (Men-C-ACYW)
- Tetanus, diphtheria, and pertussis (Tdap) *\*Available for those 14 years and older if needed.*

One week prior to the catchup clinic, we are asking schools to send the information package electronically to students and their families. This package will include:

- Parent Memo
- Vaccine Fact Sheets:
  - **Hepatitis B and the Vaccine**
  - **Human Papillomavirus and the Vaccine**
  - **Meningococcal Disease and the Vaccine**
  - **Tetanus, diphtheria and pertussis (T-dap)**
- Consent Form – needs to be printed and signed by the student and legal guardian in order to receive these vaccines.
  - 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.

For more information regarding the safety of vaccines, please visit [OPH's School Vaccine Safety Page](#).

If you, a student, or a parent, have questions regarding immunizations, please visit [parentinginottawa.ca/immunization](http://parentinginottawa.ca/immunization) or call Ottawa Public Health at 613-580-6744. The phone line is open from 9 am to 4 pm, from Monday to Friday.

We truly appreciate the opportunity to work in collaboration with schools to support our various childhood vaccination programs.

Sincerely,

**Nicole Olive RN, BScN, IBCLC**  
Program Manager - Immunization  
Ottawa Public Health  
613-580-2424 x23520  
[nicole.olive@ottawa.ca](mailto:nicole.olive@ottawa.ca)