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**FROM:**

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**Key Messages:**

- There is a significant decrease in uptake of required immunizations in school-aged children that poses a risk for increased vaccine preventable disease outbreaks in Peel.
- Health care providers are encouraged to keep their patients up-to-date with vaccination.
- Multiple Peel Public Health clinics that offer Hepatitis B, Human Papillomavirus (HPV), Meningococcal-ACYW135 vaccines will be available for students throughout the summer months.
- Please review timelines for extended eligibility for some high-risk and Shingles vaccines below.
- Health care providers are to report adverse events following immunization by faxing the form to 905-565-0426.

from 88% pre-pandemic. Immunization compliance rates may be higher due to missing information (i.e., not reported).

- Peel Public Health (PPH) paused the process of screening immunization records to see which students are up-to-date during the pandemic response and resumed this in fall 2022.
- To support students getting up-to-date with their immunizations, in the 2022/2023 school year, Peel Public Health sent letters to parents and students identifying which vaccines the student was missing but did not suspend students who were not in compliance with ISPA.
- Letter mailouts will resume in the 2023/2024 school year with school suspension potentially enforced for some age groups.

**Required Immunizations for School - Immunization of School Pupils Act (ISPA)**

- Low immunization coverage increases the risk of vaccine-preventable disease outbreaks. Recent cases of Mumps among school-aged children suggests that protection is not robust in Peel.
- Under ISPA, Public Health can suspend students who are not up-to-date with required vaccines: <https://www.health.gov.on.ca/en/pro/programs/immunization/ispa.aspx>
- Data indicates that ISPA compliance rates among school-aged children in Peel (JK - Grade 3) have decreased. For instance, compliance rates for Measles and Mumps are currently down to 50%

**How you can support your patients in avoiding school suspension:**

- Communicate the importance of immunization to patients.
- Immunize your patients as per the [https://www.health.gov.on.ca/en/pro/programs/immunization/docs/Publicly\\_Funded\\_ImmunizationSchedule.pdf](https://www.health.gov.on.ca/en/pro/programs/immunization/docs/Publicly_Funded_ImmunizationSchedule.pdf).
- Consider reviewing your patient roster to determine which vaccines your school-aged patients are eligible for.
- Remind parents to report online at <https://peelregion.ca/immunize/report/> or by calling 905-799-7700 (toll free: 1-888-919-7800).

- Review your vaccine inventory to ensure adequate supply.
  - Vaccines can be ordered at: <https://www.peelregion.ca/health/professionals/V-07-629.htm>

**NEW: Summer Routine School Immunization Clinics**

This summer, multiple clinic locations will be available to students to receive the routine school immunization vaccines (Meningococcal ACYW-135, Hepatitis B and HPV vaccines) which are typically given by Peel Public Health.

Eligibility for these vaccines:

- Meningococcal ACYW-135
  - All Grade 7 to 12 students
- Hepatitis B
  - All grade 7 to 12 students
- Human Papillomavirus (HPV)
  - All grade 7 to 12 students
  - Anyone born in 2004 has until August 31, 2023 to get vaccinated
  - Females born in 2002 and 2003 have until August 31, 2023 to get vaccinated
  - Males born in 1993 or later who identify as having sex with men, must complete doses by December 31, 2023

**Healthcare providers are encouraged to:**

- Refer students to book an appointment for their vaccination on the Peel Region website: <https://peelregion.ca/immunize/>
- Students can receive their vaccines at:
  - 7120 Hurontario Street, Mississauga
  - 10 Peel Centre Drive, Brampton
  - Meadowvale Clinic (6975 Meadowvale Town Centre Circle), Mississauga
  - Multiple school locations across Peel

NOTE: Meningococcal ACYW-135 can also be ordered and administered by healthcare providers - <https://www.peelregion.ca/health/professionals/V-07-629.htm>

**REMINDER: Extended Eligibility for High-Risk and Shingles Vaccines**

Eligibility for High Risk Programs (**HPV-9, 4CMenB, Men-C-ACYW**) has been extended until December 31, 2023.

Vaccine	Age Group	High Risk Criteria	Extended Cohorts
HPV-9 (Gardasil) (2-3 doses)	Males (MSM) 9 to 26 years	Refer to Table 3: <i>High Risk Vaccine Programs</i> of the publicly funded schedule: <a href="https://www.health.gov.on.ca/en/pro/programs/immunization/schedule.aspx">https://www.health.gov.on.ca/en/pro/programs/immunization/schedule.aspx</a>	Males born in 1993, 1994, 1995 and 1996
4CMenB (Bexsero) (2-4 doses)	2 months to 17 years		Individuals born in 2002, 2003, 2004 and 2005
Men-C-ACYW (Menactra, Nimenrix) (2-4 doses + boosters)	9 months to 55 years		Individuals born in 1964, 1965, 1966 and 1967

**Shingles Vaccine** (Shingrix) is publicly funded for individuals 65 to 70 years of age. Eligibility has been extended until December 31, 2023, for individuals born in 1949, 1950, 1951 and 1952 to complete the 2-dose series.

Ordering forms for these vaccines are available at:  
<https://www.peelregion.ca/health/professionals/immunization.htm>

## **REMINDER: Reporting Adverse Event(s) Following Immunization (AEFI)**

Health care providers are required under the *Health Protection and Promotion Act* to report AEFIs. Events of particular importance are those which require medical consultation, unusual or unexpected events.

The AEFI reporting form is available at:  
<https://www.publichealthontario.ca/en/Health-Topics/Immunization/Vaccine-Safety>

Fax AEFI forms faxed to Peel Public Health at **905-565-0426**.

## **Resources:**

- Publicly Funded Immunization Schedule for Ontario – June 2022:  
[https://www.health.gov.on.ca/en/pro/programs/immunization/docs/Publicly\\_Funded\\_ImmunizationSchedule.pdf](https://www.health.gov.on.ca/en/pro/programs/immunization/docs/Publicly_Funded_ImmunizationSchedule.pdf)
- Guidance for Routine and Catch-Up Immunization Services:  
[https://www.health.gov.on.ca/en/pro/programs/immunization/docs/Guidance\\_for\\_Routine\\_Catch\\_Up\\_Immunization\\_Services.pdf](https://www.health.gov.on.ca/en/pro/programs/immunization/docs/Guidance_for_Routine_Catch_Up_Immunization_Services.pdf)
- Visit the Immunization and Vaccines section of the Peel Public Health’s Health Professionals Website:  
<https://www.peelregion.ca/health/professionals/immunization.htm>
- For more information on the publicly funded vaccine programs, please contact the Peel Public Health at 905-799-7700.