

## Why Should I Immunize My Child?

- Immunizations, also called vaccinations or needles, are a simple and effective way to prevent many serious childhood diseases.
- Immunizations provide a safe way to help the body make its own protection (antibodies) against certain diseases.

## Children in School or Child-Care

- Children need certain immunizations to attend schools and licensed child-care centres in Ontario unless an exemption is obtained.
- Parents are responsible for reporting these immunizations to Peel Public Health.

## Peel Public Health:

- **Is required by law to collect, review and update immunization records of all school-aged children, as well as children in licensed child-care centres in the region of Peel.**



## Keep Your Child's Immunization Record Up To Date

- It is up to you to keep an immunization record for your child.
- An immunization record (yellow card) can be obtained from your health care provider. Remember to update it each time your child receives an immunization.

Personal Immunization Record  
Fiche d'immunisation

Name / Nom \_\_\_\_\_

DOB / Date of Birth / Date de naissance \_\_\_\_\_

Ontario Health Card Number  
Numéro de carte Santé de l'Ontario \_\_\_\_\_

This is a permanent record, please keep in a safe place.  
Fiche d'immunisation permanente à conserver en lieu sûr.

Ontario

## You May Be Asked for Your Child's Written Immunization Record When:

- Starting licensed child care or kindergarten
- Transferring to a school in another region
- Going to camp
- Seeking emergency health care
- Travelling

## Report Your Child's Immunization Record:

- Online at [ImmunizePeel.ca](http://ImmunizePeel.ca)
- Call Peel Public Health at **905-799-7700**  
(Caledon residents can call free at 905-584-2216)
- Fax to **905-565-0426**

**IMMUNIZE ON TIME. REPORT EVERY TIME**  
Report All Immunizations Your Child Receives to Peel Public Health.

# IMMUNIZATION

## A Lifetime Investment



For more information call Peel Public Health at 905-799-7700 or visit our website at [ImmunizePeel.ca](http://ImmunizePeel.ca)

## Is Immunization Safe?

- Yes, immunization is safe and prevents disease.
- Before any vaccine is approved for use in Canada, it must go through careful testing to show it is safe and effective.

## When Should I Have My Child Immunized?

- Immunization begins in early infancy and continues throughout life.
- Recommended routine immunizations begin at 2 months of age.
- Visit [ImmunizePeel.ca](http://ImmunizePeel.ca) to view the Publicly Funded Immunization Schedule, which shows when children can get immunizations free of charge.

## What Should I Expect After Immunization?

- The most common side effects are mild and may include low-grade fever or muscle soreness, swelling and redness where the vaccine was given.
- Serious side effects are rare.
- The benefits of immunization greatly outweigh any potential risks. Discuss any concerns with your family doctor or health care professional.



# Immunizations Protect Your Child Against...

**Diphtheria** is a serious bacterial disease of the nose, throat and skin. It causes sore throat, fever and chills and can also cause breathing problems, heart failure, nerve damage, and death.



**Pertussis (Whooping Cough)** is a bacteria that causes severe spells of coughing, which may cause pneumonia (lung infection), convulsions, brain damage or death, especially in young babies.

**Tetanus (Lockjaw)** is caused by bacteria that lives in soil and can infect wounds. It causes muscles of the body to go into painful spasms and can be fatal when muscles in the chest wall or throat are involved.

**Polio** is caused by a virus that destroys nerve cells and can lead to paralysis, inflammation of the brain and death.



**Haemophilus Influenzae Type B (Hib)** is a bacteria that can infect any part of the body. It can cause serious infections including meningitis, pneumonia, ear, bone and joint infections.

**Measles (Red Measles)** is a virus that causes a generalized rash, high fever, cough, runny nose, red eyes and white spots inside of the mouth. It can cause diarrhea, ear infections, pneumonia and inflammation of the brain.

**Mumps** is a virus that causes fever, headache and painful swelling of one or more of the glands in the mouth. Sometimes mumps can be more serious and cause swelling of the brain, temporary or permanent deafness or swelling of the testes/ovaries resulting in infertility.

**Rubella (German Measles)** is a virus that causes low-grade fever, sore throat, mild rash and swelling of the glands as well as painful and swollen joints. When a woman gets rubella during pregnancy, it can cause miscarriage or severe disability for the baby.

**Rotavirus** is a common infection that causes vomiting and diarrhea in infants and children. It is very contagious and spreads easily if a child is infected. Most children are infected with rotavirus at least once by five years of age.

**Varicella (Chickenpox)** is caused by a virus that causes fluid filled blisters and low-grade fever. Complications of chickenpox can include skin infections, pneumonia, ear infections, arthritis, inflammation of the brain and in some cases, death.

**Pneumococcal Disease** is caused by bacteria that invade the lungs causing pneumonia and infections of the ears, lining of the brain and spinal cord. It can be fatal in people with certain chronic medical conditions and in the elderly.



**Influenza (Flu)** is a serious respiratory infection that is caused by the influenza virus. It may cause headache, muscle pain, high fever, cough and chills as well as pneumonia, middle ear infections, heart failure or death.



**Meningococcal Disease (Meningitis)** is caused by bacteria that can infect the blood, brain and spinal cord. It can also cause deafness, seizures, brain damage and death.



**Hepatitis B** is a viral infection of the liver that can cause liver failure, liver cancer and death. Some people who develop hepatitis B have no symptoms but can carry and transmit the virus to others.

**Human Papillomavirus (HPV)** is a viral infection spread by skin-to-skin contact. Four strains of the virus are responsible for 70% of cervical cancers and 90% of genital warts.