

<p>IN THIS ISSUE:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Immunization School Pupils Act (ISPA) – Orders of Suspension ▪ Update: COVID-19 Medical Exemptions 	<p>FROM:</p> <p>Mary Choi, MD MPH CCFP FRCPC Associate Medical Officer of Health</p>
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Key Messages:

- Peel Public Health (PPH) has begun sending *Orders of Suspension* to students in Junior Kindergarten to Grade 1 who have not provided updated immunization records as outlined in ISPA.
- Due to increased demand, please ensure a one-month supply of routine childhood vaccines and continue to reassess your vaccine quantities as well as your refrigerator capacity.
- COVID-19 medical exemptions are no longer required to be recorded in an individual’s COVaxON record.

Immunization School Pupils Act (ISPA)- Orders of Suspension

PPH has begun sending *Orders of Suspension* to students in **Junior Kindergarten to Grade 1** who have not provided updated immunization records to Peel Public Health as outlined in the Immunization of School Pupils Act: <https://www.ontario.ca/page/vaccines-children-school#section-3>.

Orders of Suspension will be sent starting in January through to the end of March.

Students who receive an *Order of Suspension* may contact your office to:

- Obtain a copy of the immunizations received.
- Book an appointment to receive overdue vaccine doses.

If a student presents at your practice with an *Order of Suspension*, follow these steps:

1. Review your records of the student’s immunization history:

- If the student has already received the vaccine(s) listed on the letter, provide the immunization date, product, and product lot number to the parent/guardian.
- Administer the vaccine(s) if the student has not received the vaccine(s).

Note: Vaccines received out of province should be considered valid if there is written documentation of administration of vaccine at ages and intervals comparable with the Ontario Publicly Funded Schedule. The record for these vaccines should be in English or translated by you, your patient or a relative to be considered valid.

2. Remind parents to report their child’s immunizations to PPH:
 - Online at <https://peelregion.ca/health/vaccinations/report/>
 - By calling 905-799-7700 (Caledon 905-584-2216).

Preparing for suspension notices - ordering routine childhood vaccines

An increased demand for routine childhood vaccines is anticipated until the end of the school year. Please ensure a one-month supply and continue to reassess your vaccine quantities as well as your refrigerator capacity.

To order vaccines: <https://www.peelregion.ca/health/professionals/V-07-629.htm>.

ISPA vaccine indications for students in Junior Kindergarten to Grade 1

The antigens required under ISPA align with the Publicly Funded Immunization Schedules in Ontario https://www.health.gov.on.ca/en/pro/programs/immunization/docs/Publicly_Funded_ImmunizationSchedule.pdf.

The minimum age at first dose and spacing between doses must be followed to meet the ISPA requirements.

Meningococcal Conjugate C

Students ≥ 12 months up to 11 years of age require 1 dose of the Men-C-C vaccine (Menjugate[®] or NeisVac-C[®]).

- Routinely given on or after the 1st birthday.

DTaP-IPV-Hib and Tdap-IPV

Indication	Antigen/product
4-6 years of age - booster (as per routine schedule)	Tdap-IPV <i>Adacel[®] -Polio or Boostrix[®] -Polio</i>
5-6 years of age - primary series (catch-up schedule)	DTaP-IPV-Hib <i>Pediacel[®]</i>
7 years or older - primary series (catch-up schedule)	Tdap-IPV <i>Adacel[®] -Polio or Boostrix[®] -Polio</i>

MMR

Students are required to have two doses of MMR vaccine.

- 1st dose, routinely given on or after the 1st birthday.
- 2nd dose, routinely given as MMRV at 4-6 years of age.

Varicella

Students born on or after January 1, 2010, are required to have two doses of varicella vaccine.

- 1st dose routinely given at 15 months.
- 2nd dose routinely given as MMRV at 4-6 years of age.

Students with a previous history of varicella infection have the following options:

1. Submit a medical exemption form completed by a health care provider based on one of the following criteria:
 - Diagnosis or verification of a history of varicella or herpes zoster by a health care provider.
 - Serologic testing (varicella IgG) for laboratory confirmation of immunity.
2. Receive two doses of varicella vaccine.

Varicella vaccine can safely be administered to children with a history of varicella infection.

Students who had a varicella infection at <12 months of age require two doses of varicella vaccine since infection as an infant has been associated with an increased risk of a second episode of varicella.

Parents are to contact PPH at 905-799-7700, Caledon 905-584-2216 for information on how to proceed with a medical exemption.

Update: COVID-19 Medical Exemptions

As of December 22, 2023, medical exemptions are no longer required to be recorded in an individual's COVaxON record.

- Existing medical exemptions will appear on the vaccine certificate for 6 months from the last exemption date.
- Individuals should follow-up with their healthcare provider should their personal circumstances warrant the need for medical documentation indicating vaccination exemption.
- Healthcare providers can provide written documentation for their clients as they would for other medical issues.

Additional information can be found in the recent COVID-19 Vaccine Administration Guidance available at: <https://www.ontario.ca/page/covid-19-vaccine-program>.