

Dear Principal / Administrative Staff,

Spring 2022

Nurses from the health unit will be in your school on the following dates:

Students	Date of Visit:	
Grade 8	<u>Vaccines to be administered</u> Men-C-ACYW (Meningitis) Hepatitis B - Dose #1 HPV - Dose #1	Second doses will be provided when the student is in secondary school

All Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit staff will complete an employee screening tool daily before entering every school. Staff will also be wearing proper PPE while in the school. Staff will bring all cleaning and disinfecting supplies needed for the immunization clinic. Masks remain mandatory in healthcare facilities, including all SMDHU community or school-based vaccination clinics. All students will be provided a mask to wear while in our clinic.

Considerations for clinic location:

- The ideal location for an immunization clinic is a library or empty classroom that would allow for better flow and less disruption and allow for public health measures to be followed.
- Privacy when students are receiving their immunizations.
- A safe, clean and adequately sized space to ensure safety during the clinic is required.
- Open stages and areas that require stair access are not safe for clinics. Falls are a major concern post immunization.
- It is important that there are **no other activities** in the selected room as this can pose a safety risk for both students and clinic staff.

School staff responsibilities:

- Please advise Grade 8 teachers, administrative office staff and custodians of the scheduled clinic dates.
- We ask that you refrain from scheduling any other school events on these dates (field trips, assemblies).
- Distribute a consent package to each Grade 8 students at least 2 weeks prior to scheduled clinic date.
- Please collect the completed consents in the purple folder provided. The nurse will pick up the purple folder and consents on the day of clinic.
- Provide alphabetized class lists to the school clinic nurses on day of clinic.
- Ensure availability of telephone, fax and photocopier as required.
- Promote the program via announcements, discussion at staff meetings, school newsletters and school website; draft messaging is included with this letter.

Equipment needed:

- Five small tables or three large and one small.
- Three gym mats for the floor.
- Ten adult sized chairs that can be wiped clean.
- Access to electrical outlets.
- An area that allows for internet connectivity.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to call the Health Unit via our Health Connection line at 705 721-7520 or use the [secure Hconnect form](#) on the website. Thank you for your continued support of the school immunization clinics.

Immunization Program,

Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit

DRAFT MESSAGING OPTIONS FOR IMMUNIZATION PROGRAM PROMOTION

Grade 8 Catholic

Newsletter Inserts or Email Blasts

Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, many students have missed routine vaccinations that would have been given at school, during their Grade 7 year. These missed vaccines include: hepatitis B (hep B), human papillomavirus vaccine (HPV) and meningococcal. Catch-up school clinics for these three vaccines are being scheduled in for Grade 8 students starting in April.

While all three vaccines are strongly recommended, Meningococcal vaccine is required by law, under the Immunization of School Pupils Act (ISPA), for school attendance. Regarding the HPV vaccine, the Assembly of Catholic Bishops of Ontario emphasizes that parents have the final decision on whether or not their child should receive this vaccine and encourages parents to seek information to make an informed decision.

More information, including consent forms, will be sent home prior to the school clinic for review by the parent and student.

For more information about routine immunization, visit our [Grade 7 immunization page](#).

Immunization Records

Has your child already received their routine immunizations? As a parent or guardian, **you are required to report your child's immunizations** to your local public health unit if your child attends school, or a licensed daycare centre.

The following are required immunizations:

- Tetanus, Diphtheria, Polio and Pertussis (whooping cough) - booster required between 14-16 years old
- Measles, Mumps and Rubella - must have two doses after the first birthday
- Meningococcal Disease - must have one dose of Men-C after the first birthday and one dose of Men-C-ACYW in Grade 7, however this second dose has been delayed due to the pandemic and is now being offered to Grade 8, 9 and 10 students.

The health unit does not receive immunization information directly from doctor's offices. Please contact the health unit each time your child receives a vaccine from their health care provider.

What you can do:

Check – your child's yellow immunization card

Contact – your child's health-care provider to obtain records, or to get missing vaccinations

Share – go to smdhu.org/immsonline to enter the complete record or fax a completed record to 705-726-3962.

For more information visit our [school immunization records page](#).

Announcements

Week of clinic:

The following message has been brought to you by the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit. Nurses from the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit will be in the (room to be inserted) on (insert date) offering hepatitis B, HPV and meningococcal vaccines to Grade 8 students. Information packages have been sent home for you and your parents to review. Normally the health unit provides these routine vaccines as part of school-based immunizations for Grade 7 students, however the pandemic delayed the clinics. These three vaccines are very important to protect against viral liver infection, some types of cancer and serious brain or blood infections caused by bacteria. Take the time to understand the risks and benefits and talk to someone you trust for more information. If you are not quite sure about getting these vaccines, the health unit staff are available just to and ask questions during the clinics.

Day before clinic:

The following message has been brought to you by the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit. The health unit is in (room to be inserted) tomorrow offering hepatitis B, HPV and meningococcal vaccines to Grade 8 students. To prepare for your vaccination make sure to wear a loose-fitting shirt that allows easy access to your upper arm. Take any regular medication and eat meals as usual. Remember to bring your consent form with you.

Day of clinic:

The following message has been brought to you by the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit. The health unit is in (room to be inserted) today offering hepatitis B, HPV and meningococcal vaccines to Grade 8 students. If you are not quite sure about getting the vaccine, our health unit staff are available to chat and answer questions.