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Grade 7 School Immunization Program Catch-Up, Resumption of Public Immunization Clinics, Updated Eligibility for School Program and High-Risk Vaccines Due to COVID-19 Pandemic

Attention: Physicians, Walk-In Clinics/Urgent Care Clinics, Nurse & Nurse Practitioners, Midwives, Pharmacies, Family Health Teams, Central LHIN, NSM LHIN, Beausoleil First Nation, Rama First Nation, Moose Deer Point First Nation, Wahta First Nation

Date: June 15, 2022

School Immunization Program Catch-Up Plan

The Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit (SMDHU) is now offering catch-up clinics for students in grade 8 through 12 who missed their School Immunization Program vaccines (Hepatitis B, Meningococcal and HPV) due to the COVID-19 Pandemic. Students who are in grade 7 in the current school year, will be offered these vaccines at school in 2022/2023 when they are in grade 8, as the health unit will offer the program next year to both the grade 7 and 8 cohorts.

Appointments for these catch-up clinics are now available at six of the health unit's [local offices](#) across the region and at the Georgian Mall clinic in Barrie. [Information](#) has been sent home with students through their school and appointments may be booked online at www.smdhu.org/grade8 or by calling Health Connection at 705-721-7520 or at 1-877-721-7520, weekdays between 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Resumption of Public Immunization Clinics

The health unit has also resumed public immunization clinics for all routine publicly funded vaccines that were paused in March 2020 due to the demands of the COVID-19 pandemic. These clinics are for children, youth and adults who do not have access to vaccines through a primary care provider. These clinics are offered at the health unit's seven office locations by appointment only and can be booked online at www.smdhu.org/appointment or by calling Health Connection at 705-721-7520, weekdays between 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Updated Eligibility for School Program and High-Risk Vaccines Due to COVID-19 Pandemic

The updated [Guidance for Routine Immunization Services During COVID-19](#) outlines expanded timelines for age- and grade-based eligibility vaccines. The expanded timeframes apply to individuals who were eligible for a vaccine but access to the vaccine may have been impacted from COVID-19 public health measures. This update to expanded eligibility and timeframes will facilitate access to vaccines for individuals that may have aged out of the eligibility for age- or grade-based eligibility vaccines.

If you have any questions, please contact the Immunization program at 705-721-7520 ext. 8806 during regular business hours (Monday to Friday 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.).

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