

AT A GLANCE: SCHOOL YEAR PLAN

HEALTHY SCHOOLS AND RELATED PUBLIC HEALTH TOPICS



Healthy Schools

Schools will have access to a School Health public health nurse for information and consultation throughout the year.

Schools that are ready to engage in Healthy Schools initiatives receive dedicated public health support to implement comprehensive health and wellness initiatives.

The RNAO Youth Wellness Champions program will be offered in partnership with the Simcoe County District School Board at participating schools.



Dental Health Promotion

Dental staff assist schools, students and families to access [dental screening, both in the community and school-based](#), including Healthy Smiles Ontario and the Canadian Dental Care Plan.



Vaping Prevention – Not an Experiment

Provide consultation and support to address vaping through the [NotAnExperiment.ca](#) program (Grades 7 to 12). The program offers information, activities and resources for education, prevention and assisting students who wish to quit using cannabis and/or vaping.



Substance Use Prevention

Public health nurses offer support to address substance use prevention, including [alcohol and other drugs](#), and harm reduction related topics.



Mental Health and Well-Being

Public health nurses partner with schools to support school-wide mental health and well-being initiatives using evidence-based resources such as:

- [School Mental Health Ontario](#)
- [Developmental Relationships®](#)
- [Ontario Early Adversity and Resilience Framework](#)
- [Playground Activity Leaders in Schools \(PALS\)](#)



Food and Nutrition

Provide consultation and support for promoting healthy [food and nutrition environments](#), including school nutrition policies, Student Nutrition Programs, and school-wide food and nutrition initiatives.



School Travel Planning

Consult with schools and help facilitate programming to increase student physical activity and improve safety around schools through [School Travel Planning](#) and the [Simcoe Muskoka On the Move](#) initiative.



Human Development and Sexual Health

Consult and provide resources, including demonstration kits to support the [Human Development and Sexual Health](#) components of the Ontario Health and Physical Education curriculum.

ROUTINE CLINICAL SERVICES IN SCHOOLS



Grade 7 Immunizations

Routine immunizations to protect against meningococcal disease, hepatitis B and human papillomavirus will be offered in two rounds: fall and spring. Clinic dates were coordinated with schools in June 2026.



Immunization of School Pupils Act - Surveillance and Suspensions

Letters were sent home to notify students whose immunization records are not up to date. Suspension orders will be issued in August 2026 for students in Grades 11 and 12, and in January 2027 for students in Grades 2 and 3. Immunization record reviews and reminders will continue throughout 2026-27.



Sexual Health Clinics

Sexual Health services are provided in partnership with Trillium Lakelands District School Board at secondary schools in the District of Muskoka.



Routine Dental Screening

Dental screening will take place in all elementary schools beginning in October for students in select grades. Schools will be contacted in the fall to schedule screening dates. In select schools, additional primary grades will be screened to offer fluoride varnish services.

PUBLIC HEALTH REQUIREMENTS AND REPORTING



Infectious Diseases Reporting

Schools are required to **report diseases of public health significance** to the health unit. Reports received are investigated and follow-up is provided for staff, students and families who may be affected.



Infection Prevention and Control

Routine inspections of school-based personal service settings are completed annually. **Infection Prevention and Control** recommendations are available on our website. A new train-the-trainer program is available for schools that offer hairstyling and aesthetics courses.



Food Safety Inspections and Education

Inspections are conducted in schools to assess compliance with the Ontario Food Premises Regulation. **Food safety** education and guidance to support safe food-handling practices, along with *Food Handler Certification Training* materials, are available.



Rabies Prevention

Schools are required to report animal bites and exposures. Reports of **potential rabies exposures** are investigated, and coordination with health-care providers is undertaken to ensure individuals have access to appropriate rabies treatment.



Smoke-Free Ontario Act, 2017 (SFOA) Enforcement

School property is required to be 100 percent smoke-free 24 hours a day, seven days a week, year-round. Inspections are conducted to assess and address concerns related to compliance with the **Smoke-Free Ontario Act, 2017**.

Need help? Have questions?

Contact your public health nurse or email schoolhealth@smdhu.org

To protect the privacy of staff and students, please refrain from sending emails containing personal health information.