

May 2022

Dear Parents/Guardians of Grade 8 Students:

Before the pandemic, the School Immunization Program normally provided vaccines to Grade 7 students for: Hepatitis B (HB), Meningitis (Meningococcal Conjugate ACYW-Menactra) and Human Papillomavirus (HPV-9). We are pleased to offer your Grade 8 student an opportunity to receive these vaccine(s).

We are providing catch-up clinics at each of our local health unit offices and at the Georgian Mall clinic in Barrie throughout May to August 2022. Clinics are by appointment only. All current Grade 8 students can book an appointment to receive the Hepatitis B, Meningococcal Conjugate ACYW-Menactra and HPV-9 vaccinations. Hepatitis B and HPV-9 are both a two dose vaccine series, given six months apart. Your child will be offered the opportunity to receive their second doses next year (January – March 2023) when they are in high school.

To book an appointment visit www.smdhu.org/grade8. Appointments are available from June 4, until August 31, 2022.

If your child has already received these vaccines from their health care provider, please ensure that you update their record online at www.smdhu.org/immsonline.

If your child has received only some of the vaccines and is due for dose two of Hepatitis-B and/or HPV-9 over the summer months (6-month interval between doses) or a dose of Menactra, you can book an appointment for your child at one of our clinics.

Please note that the vaccine to protect against Meningitis (Meningococcal Conjugate ACYW-Menactra) is one of the vaccines designated under the [Ontario's Immunization of School Pupils Act \(ISPA\)](#) which requires that children and youth attending primary or secondary school be immunized against [certain diseases](#) unless they have a valid exemption.

We thank you for your patience as we restart normal activities. If you would like to speak with a public health nurse, please call 705-721-7520 ext. 8827.

Sincerely
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Associate Medical Officer of Health

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