

September 2022

Dear Students, Parents and Guardians:

All Grade 7 & 8 students are offered three free vaccines through the school immunization program. These vaccines are free only through the school immunization program and not at your family doctor.

Immunizations are an important part of a child's overall health care and we encourage you to read the attached information and consent form about the following vaccines for this year's program.

- Hepatitis B
- Meningococcal Conjugate ACYW (meningitis)
- Human Papillomavirus (HPV)

As a parent, you play an important role in helping your child make decisions about their health. By Grade 7 most students can make decisions about their health and can consent to getting vaccines. Under the Health Care Consent Act, we need the student's consent to give them a vaccine. If a nurse determines a student is not able to understand the information, they will contact the parent or guardian.

If a student has anxiety related to needles, please visit our website at www.simcoeumskokahealth.org for tips to help prepare.

Please return a completed consent form to the school with <u>both student and parent signatures</u>, <u>even if you are choosing not to receive the immunizations</u>.

Only those students who return a completed consent form indicating YES will be immunized at the school clinic.

Students:

- ✓ Please check YES or NO for each vaccine that is being offered and sign your name.
- ✓ Bring your completed consent form back to school before the school clinic, even if you choose not to get the vaccine(s).

Parents:

✓ Please sign the consent form showing that you are aware of your child's decision.

<u>Please note:</u> Meningococcal Conjugate ACYW vaccine is required for Grade 7 students under the Immunization School Pupils Act (ISPA). Students are required to receive the vaccination or have a medical exemption, or an affidavit on file, to meet the requirements of the ISPA. Not having one of these three options completed could lead to suspension from school. For more information, visit www.simcoemuskokahealth.org

Sincerely,

Colin Q-T Lee, MD, MSc, CCFP (EM), FRCPC Associate Medical Officer of Health