

<p>IN THIS ISSUE:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Physician Call for Action: Immunization of School-Aged Patients. Reminder: EMR tool available to identify school-aged patients missing vaccines under the <i>Immunization of School Pupils Act (ISPA)</i>. 	<p>FROM: Mary Choi, MD MPH CCFP FRCPC Associate Medical Officer of Health</p>
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Key Messages:

- Health care providers are encouraged to review their patient roster over the summer to determine which vaccines school-aged patients are eligible to receive.
- OntarioMD (OMD) has developed an EMR tool that can generate a list of school-aged patients that may have missing vaccine doses under the *Immunization of School Pupils Act (ISPA)*.
- Decreased vaccine uptake can pose a risk for infections and outbreaks related to vaccine preventable diseases in the community.

You can help your patients avoid school suspensions in the next school year:

- Review your roster to identify school-aged patients eligible for vaccines as per the Publicly Funded Immunization Schedules for Ontario – see vaccine resources for professionals.
<https://www.ontario.ca/page/vaccine-resources-professionals>
 - For patients 4-11 years of age, you can use the EMR tool. See below for further information on this tool.
- Upon a patient visit, review their immunization record and assess what is required based on the publicly funded immunization schedule.
- Offer vaccines at the earliest opportunity over the summer months, prior to the fall mailouts.
- Communicate the importance of immunization to patients.
- Remind parents to report online at <https://peelregion.ca/health/vaccinations/report> or by calling 905-799-7700 (toll free: 1-888-919-7800).
- Monitor your vaccine inventory to ensure adequate supply. Vaccines can be ordered at: <https://www.peelregion.ca/health/professionals/vaccines/ordering/>

Physician Call for Action: Immunization of School-Aged Patients

Since the pandemic, there has been a decrease in reporting to public health for vaccines required under the *Immunization of School Pupils Act (ISPA)*. This is a trend that has been observed across the province. Under ISPA, students who are not up to date with required vaccines or do not have an exemption on file with public health can be suspended from school.
<https://www.ontario.ca/page/vaccines-children-school#section-3>

Peel Public Health (PPH) has resumed the ISPA enforcement program and will be sending out reminder letters in the fall to students in select cohorts who are missing vaccine doses under ISPA. Students who fail to follow up with PPH after receiving reminder letters may be subject to suspension.

In general, it is important for health care providers to ensure that their patients are up to date with all recommended vaccines. Decreased vaccine uptake can pose a risk for infections and outbreaks related to vaccine preventable diseases in the community.

Reminder: EMR tool available to identify school-aged patients missing vaccines under the *Immunization of School Pupils Act (ISPA)*

OntarioMD in collaboration with PPH has developed searches and queries for Accuro® EMR, OSCAR Pro EMR, and TELUS PSS EMR to assist physicians in identifying school-aged patients that may have missed ISPA vaccines.

Tool Functionality:

- Generates lists of school-aged patients' names from your roster with missing vaccine doses required as part of ISPA according to your EMR for:
 - 4-6 years of age
 - 7-11 years of age
- The tool is not able to generate lists for older school-aged patients (12-18 years of age) at this time.
- The list is generated based on the vaccine doses that are documented in your EMR. Please confirm with your patient if they have received a dose from another provider and update your EMR as relevant.
- It is important to verify the accuracy of the patient list, use clinical judgement to assess which vaccines should be administered, and to devise a plan to reach out to schedule appointments for school-aged children who require one or more vaccinations.

The tool can be accessed at:

<https://omdeducates.com/identification-of-school-aged-patients-who-may-have-missed-immunizations/>

For support using these tools or for searches in other EMRs, contact: support@ontariomd.com.