

November 11, 2024; Vol. 17, No. 34

<p>IN THIS ISSUE:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Reminder: Updated polio vaccine recommendations for children previously immunized with oral poliovirus vaccine (OPV) ▪ Impacts to screening and enforcement under the <i>Immunization of School Pupils Act (ISPA)</i> ▪ Polio immunization recommendations 	<p>FROM: Mary Choi, MD MPH CCFP FRCPC Associate Medical Officer of Health</p>
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Key Messages:

- In April 2024, the Ministry of Health updated polio vaccine recommendations for children previously immunized internationally with the OPV.
- Polio is not included in this year’s screening and enforcement under the *Immunization of School Pupils Act (ISPA)* for the 2024-2025 school year.
- Continue to review the student’s polio immunization history even if polio is not listed on the screening letter.
- Presume that any recorded doses of OPV administered on or after April 1, 2016, are invalid and administer an age-appropriate series of inactivated polio vaccine (IPV) or IPV-containing vaccine.

Reminder: Updated polio vaccine recommendations for children previously immunized with oral poliovirus vaccine (OPV)

In April 2024, the Ministry of Health updated polio vaccine recommendations for children previously immunized internationally with the OPV. These changes align with updated guidance from the National Advisory Committee on Immunization (NACI).

Impacts to screening and enforcement under the *Immunization of School Pupils Act (ISPA)*

The provincial immunization database (Panorama) has been updated to invalidate OPV and unspecified doses of polio administered on or after April 1, 2016.

For the 2024-2025 school year, Peel Public Health is implementing full screening and enforcement for students in Junior Kindergarten to Grade 2 for all publicly funded school boards. Polio is not included in screening and enforcement in 2024-2025. Planning and preparations are underway for implementation of polio screening in the 2025-2026 school year.

Polio immunization recommendations

Some children previously considered up to date for polio may now require re-immunization. Healthcare providers are recommended to:

- continue to review the student’s polio immunization history even if polio is not listed on the screening letter
- presume that any recorded doses of OPV administered on or after April 1, 2016, are invalid
- administer an age-appropriate series of IPV or IPV-containing vaccine, which covers all three poliovirus types as per the [Publicly Funded Immunization Schedules for Ontario](#)

Remind parents to report their child’s immunizations to Peel Public Health:

- [Report vaccinations online](#)
- By calling 905-799-7700 (Caledon 905-584-2216)

For further information a [Q&A for healthcare providers](#) is available.