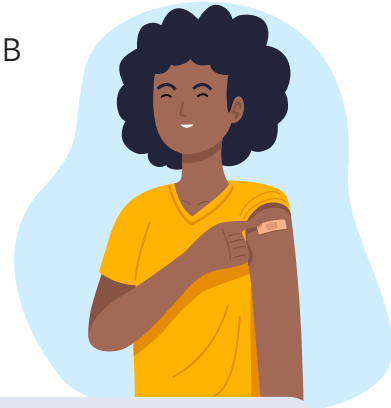


# Routine School Immunizations

Peel Public Health is providing routine school vaccines to eligible students in grades 7 and 8. The vaccines offered are Meningococcal-C-ACYW, Hepatitis B (HB), and Human Papillomavirus (HPV).

These vaccines are **free** for students. Some are only publicly funded for a limited time, so you may have to pay after students reach a certain age. Students can still get vaccinated at school if they do not have an Ontario Health Card. Consent is valid for the entire vaccination series and applies to all Peel Public Health clinics. Consent can be withdrawn at anytime.



**Meningococcal disease** is an infection usually caused by five types of the bacteria that infect the blood or fluid around the brain and spinal cord. It is a rare disease, but symptoms can become life-threatening very quickly. Complications from the disease can lead to brain damage, permanent hearing loss, seizures, amputation of a limb, or death.

**It spreads** by direct contact with saliva or mucus from an infected person, which can happen by kissing, sharing drinks, utensils, or toothbrushes, etc.

**The Men-C-ACYW vaccine** (Menactra®, MenQuadfi®, MENVEO™, NIMENRIX®) provides protection against four types of the bacteria that cause infection. The vaccine is safe and **80 to 85% effective**.

A single dose is **required** for school attendance in Ontario, unless the student has a valid exemption. The vaccine is still recommended for all adolescents, even if they have previously been vaccinated as an infant or toddler.



**Hepatitis B** is a very contagious virus that can cause liver disease and liver cancer. There is no cure. Most people get better, but others will stay infected and carry the virus in their body for the rest of their lives.

**It spreads** by direct contact with the blood or body fluids of an infected person, even if they do not look or feel sick. It can spread through sharing razors, needles, or toothbrushes, unprotected sex, and improperly cleaned tattoo or spa equipment.

**The hepatitis B vaccine** (ENGERIX®-B, RECOMBIVAX HB®) is safe and is over **95% effective** when all doses are given. It is a **highly recommended** vaccine.

Students ages 11 to 15 need 2 doses given 4 to 6 months apart. Students with a weakened immune system or students 16 and older who got the first two doses later than recommended will need 3 doses.

**Human Papillomavirus** is a very common virus that can cause cancers of the mouth, head, neck, cervix, and genitals. Many people do not know they are infected and never develop symptoms, so they can pass it onto others without knowing. There is no cure, and without vaccination, it is estimated that 3 out of 4 sexually active Canadians will get HPV in their lifetime.

**It spreads** by skin-to-skin contact in the genital area or during sexual activity. The best way to prevent HPV infection is to get vaccinated before engaging in sexual activity for the first time. The vaccine protects against seven types of the virus, which may lead to cancer, and two types that cause genital warts.

**The HPV-9 vaccine** (GARDASIL®9) is safe and over **95% effective** when all doses are given. It is a **highly recommended** vaccine.

Students under 15 years old need 2 doses, given 6 months apart. Students with a weak immune system or 15 years and older will need a third dose.

## What to expect after getting the vaccine(s)?

Most people have no problems after getting vaccines. Some may have a sore arm, redness, swelling, or itchiness at the needle site for a few days.

Occasionally, tiredness, headache, dizziness, fainting, nausea, and a slight fever may develop.

## When to seek medical attention

Allergic and severe reactions after vaccines are very rare. Side effects may occur within approximately a week after getting vaccines. If pain, redness, or swelling at the needle site lasts for 4 or more days, contact your primary care provider.

If any of these symptoms develop, please notify your primary care provider.

- trouble breathing
- swelling of the face or mouth
- hives
- very pale colour or drowsiness
- seizures
- fever over 40 C

**If symptoms are severe, call 911.**



## Questions we ask students on the day of clinic

### Are you feeling well today?

Generally, students who are feeling unwell but are well enough to attend school can get the vaccine.

Anyone with a fever, or anything more serious than a common cold, should not get the vaccine until they are well.

### Do you have any allergies?

Any known allergies should be reported to the nurse on the day of the clinic. Students with an allergy to any component of the vaccine will be referred to their primary care provider for vaccination:

- **Meningococcal ACYW-135 vaccine components:** sodium phosphate, sodium chloride and diphtheria toxoid.
- **Hepatitis B vaccine components:** sodium chloride, aluminum, formaldehyde, thimerosal, 2-phenoxyethanol, sodium borate and yeast.
- **HPV-9 vaccine components:** aluminum (as amorphous aluminum hydroxyphosphate sulphate adjuvant), sodium chloride, L-histidine, polysorbate yeast and sodium borate.

### Have you received any of these vaccines before?

If your child received these vaccines before, your child may be complete. Attach a copy of your child's vaccine record for the nurse to review.

### Have you had any problems with vaccines in the past?

Anyone with a history of severe reactions after vaccines may need further assessment before getting the vaccine at school. These students will be asked to see their primary care provider for vaccination.

### Do you have immune system problems due to medication or disease?

Anyone with a weakened immune system can get the Meningococcal, Hepatitis B or HPV-9 vaccines. If you do, tell the nurse and they can decide the appropriate number of doses needed for full protection.

### Is there any chance that you could be pregnant?

- **Meningococcal ACYW-135:** Discuss the benefits and risks of this vaccine during pregnancy with a primary care provider.
- **Hepatitis B and HPV-9:** The Hepatitis B and HPV-9 vaccines can be given safely during pregnancy.

## Has your child received these vaccines before?

Visit [peel.icon.ehealthontario.ca/#!/welcome](https://peel.icon.ehealthontario.ca/#!/welcome) to view or update your child's vaccine records.



For more information, visit [peelregion.ca/immunize](https://peelregion.ca/immunize)  
or call Peel Public Health at **905-799-7700**, 1-888-919-7800 (toll-free).

