

Program/Service Information Report

Immunization Coverage in Schools and Licensed Childcare Settings

To: Board of Health

Meeting Date: **November 1, 2023**

Report No.: BH.01.NOV0123.C13

Key Points

- Vaccines are key components to decrease vaccine preventable diseases and related outbreaks
- Under the *Immunization of School Pupils Act (ISPA)* and the *Immunization for Children in Schools and Licensed Child Care Protocol* Wellington Dufferin Guelph Public Health (WDGPH) assesses, maintains and reports on student vaccine records required for school and licensed childcare attendance.
- WDGPH offers free Hepatitis B (HB), Human Papilloma Virus (HPV) and Meningococcal (MEN ACYW-135) vaccine in all schools for grade 7 students
- WDGPH offers vaccine clinics in all high schools for *ISPA* mandated vaccines and catch up opportunities for the HB, HPV and MEN ACYW-135 vaccines.
- WDGPH *ISPA* mandated immunization coverage for 7- & 17-year-olds is above the provincial average for the 2021-2022 school year
- WDGPH HB, HPV, and MEN ACYW-135 immunization coverage is above the provincial average for the 2021-2022 school year

Program Requirements

Compliance with OPHS and Accountability Indicators:

In compliance

Not in compliance. If not in compliance, provide additional information about the variance and how it will be addressed.

Highlights

Immunization coverage refers to the proportion of a population that is appropriately immunized at a specific point in time.³ Vaccines are key components of successful public health programs to decrease and control vaccine-preventable diseases and related outbreaks.³ In accordance with the *Immunization of School Pupils Act (ISPA)* and the *Immunization for Children in Schools and Licensed Child Care Protocol, 2018* public health is mandated to assess, maintain and report the immunization records for students attending schools and licensed childcare centres. In the 2022/2023 school year immunization records for all children in schools and in licensed childcare programs were assessed.

WDGPH assesses student records and generates immunization notices that are sent to parents/guardians/students to inform them that WDGPH does not have their complete immunization records. In the 2022/2023 school year 26.7 % of school age students had incomplete immunization records and 13, 233 immunization notices were sent to parents/guardians/students in schools. In the 2022/2023 school year 38% of children in licensed childcare centres had incomplete immunization records and 2052 immunization notices were sent to parents/guardians.

WDGPH depends on parents and healthcare providers to report immunizations to Public Health to maintain up-to-date data. In the 2022/2023 school year the combined WDGPH immunization coverage (% of up to date for *ISPA*-designated diseases) for 7- and 17-year-olds was reported as 67.25% and 83.79% respectively. Public Health Ontario (PHO) offers an annual report on *ISPA* vaccine coverage data that is specific to each health unit, please see Table 1 & 2 for detailed data on immunization coverage for vaccines required under the *ISPA* for 7- and 17-year-olds, for the 2021/2022 school year. PHO has not yet provided data on *ISPA* vaccine coverage for the 2022/2023 school year. It is important to note that this data reflects either a lack of immunization coverage or lack of reporting from parents and healthcare providers.

Table 1. Immunization coverage (%) among 7-year-olds in the 2021-22 school year

	Measles	Mumps	Rubella	Diphtheria	Tetanus	Pertussis	Polio	Hib	Pneumococcal	MenC	Varicella
WDGPH 2021-22	78.0	77.8	96.0	78.4	78.4	78.4	78.5	88.9	87.0	94.8	76.1
ONTARIO 2021-22	52.5	52.2	86.5	52.1	52.1	52.0	52.3	76.6	74.2	83.5	49.2

Table 2. Immunization coverage (%) among 17-year-olds in the 2021-22 school year

	Measles	Mumps	Rubella	Diphtheria	Tetanus	Polio	Pertussis
WDGPH 2021-22	94.5	94.5	95.3	76.6	76.7	92.7	77.4
ONTARIO 2021-22	92.9	92.7	94.9	54.8	54.8	90.4	55.8

In the 2022/2023 school year WDGPH offered all grade 7 students free vaccines in the school setting for Human Papilloma Virus (HPV), Hepatitis B virus (HB) and Meningococcal disease (MEN ACYW-135). One to two immunization clinics were offered in each high school to provide any vaccines that are mandated for school attendance under the *ISPA* and opportunities to catch up on any of the vaccines typically offered in grade 7. Additional WDGPH clinics including after hours appointments in all three offices and remote satellite locations were offered in each school year. Please see Table 3 for detailed data on immunization coverage for HB, HPV and MEN ACWY-135 immunization coverage for the 2021/2022 school year.

Table 3. Immunization Coverage (%) among 12-year-olds for HB, HPV and MEN ACWY-135 vaccines in the 2021/2022 school year

	Meningococcal (ACWY-135)	Hepatitis B (HB)	Human Papilloma Virus (HPV)
WDGPH 2021-2022	79.3	61.6	53.7
ONTARIO 2021-2022	42.8	29.8	15.6

Vaccine Coverage Improvement Initiatives

WDGPH will continue to assess all records and send immunization notices for incomplete records to all children in schools and licensed childcare centres in the 2023/2024 school year. Clinics will be offered in school-based settings, public health offices and satellite clinics throughout the upcoming year. WDGPH will continue to work closely with community healthcare providers to support the delivery and administration of all immunizations. WDGPH has implemented a quality improvement project in partnership with the University of Toronto, targeting pain management and vaccine hesitancy. A report on this initiative will be available after the completion of the 2023/2024 school year.

References

1. Government of Canada, Public Health Agency of Canada (2021). Vaccination Coverage Goals and Vaccine Preventable Disease Reduction Targets by 2025. Retrieved from <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/immunization-vaccine-priorities/national-immunization-strategy/vaccination-coverage-goals-vaccine-preventable-diseases-reduction-targets-2025.html>
2. Ontario Public Health Standards: Requirements for Programs, Services and Accountability. https://www.health.gov.on.ca/en/pro/programs/publichealth/oph_standards/docs/protocols_guidelines/Ontario_Public_Health_Standards_2021.pdf
3. Public Health Ontario (2023). Immunization Coverage for Routine Infant and Childhood Programs Ontario: 2019-20, 2020-21 and 2021-22 School Years. https://www.publichealthontario.ca/-/media/Documents/I/2023/immunization-coverage-infant-childhood-2019-2022.pdf?rev=a0e297953e4f4752ad61c5290a2e27bb&sc_lang=en
4. Public Health Ontario (January 2023). Immunization Coverage Report for School-based Programs in Ontario: 2019-20, 2020-21 and 2021-22 School Years with Impact of Catch-Up Programs. <https://www.publichealthontario.ca/en/Health-Topics/Immunization/Vaccine-Coverage?tab=0>

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